



## Senate Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

### INTRODUCED

#### **SB 246**

**STUDENT REMOVAL** (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Am. 3302.03, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668, and 3319.46 and to enact section 3319.237

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Friday, December 22**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

No agency meetings scheduled.

### **Event Planner**

No events scheduled.

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Volume #86, Report #245 -- Thursday, December 21, 2017

## **Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic**

University presidents are coming together to devise strategies for reaching out to youth impacted by the opiate epidemic.

They're doing so at the request of Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), who said he was recently inspired by a group of Waverly City Schools students impacted by addiction.

Many students in that district live with someone other than their parents and lack access to role models who can highlight life skills and opportunities to grow, he said in a recent column.



Speaker Rosenberger

Speaker Rosenberger said he believes universities can serve as the sources of those mentors.

"It's our communities who are going to help us in the drug epidemic, so how can we get college students to be those big brothers and sisters and give them some credit maybe for service-oriented things," he told reporters last week.

Another facet of his charge to universities is to consider how at-risk high school students can volunteer to earn credits toward college tuition, he said.

"Maybe they earn some credit or some dollars toward college credit so that they can have some ability to go out and do something," Speaker Rosenberger said.

Because reaching out to underserved populations dealing with the opiate crisis will be a priority for the legislature in 2018, he said he's eyeing legislation that would implement such mentorship and volunteer programs statewide. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2017)

University presidents began brainstorming immediately after meeting with the speaker earlier this month and will come back together in January to decide which ideas should be proposed, said Bruce Johnson, president of the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

Institutions have an essential role in the state's ongoing fight against opioids, he said, pointing to research that shows Ohioans with college degrees are 14 times less likely to die of overdoses than those who have only high school diplomas.

"One of the fundamental ways to attack opiate abuse in the state is to have a higher percentage of people in the state obtain a higher education," Mr. Johnson said.

"Students, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the state, having mentors would help them manage their way through the difficulties and find their way to a public university," he added.

In areas of the state where the opiate epidemic has hit hardest, encouraging students to want to go to college is key because they often don't see higher education as a potential pathway, Mr. Johnson said.

"I think the thing that's really going to give students hope is a pathway which involves access to higher education," he said.

For that reason, it's possible the forthcoming plan will propose financial assistance for high school students who participate in a mentorship program and can show perseverance, Mr. Johnson said.

"Earning your way toward a college scholarship would be a great use of the state's resources," he said.

Any legislative proposals that come from the president's recommendations would be in addition to what universities are already doing on the opiate front, he said. Each university has undertaken initiatives to address the issue.

At Ohio University, low-income patients with substance abuse issues can receive free or low-cost treatment and drug dependent mothers-to-be are eligible for access to medication-assisted treatment programs, obstetrical care, social service benefits and other services. Similar services are provided at other university hospitals throughout the state.

Meanwhile, University of Akron is looking to help students who may be dealing with addiction by working with community agencies to develop supports and programming.

In the research realm, the University of Cincinnati recently received a \$1.5 million Third Frontier grant aimed at the epidemic. That total is in addition to \$32 million in research funding that's been awarded to the university to be put toward the cause.

Other universities are offering up their own dollars in an effort to find innovative solutions to the state's drug problem. The new Opioid Innovation Fund at Ohio State University will provide \$1 million in grants to public-private partnerships that develop programs or technologies to reduce the burden of the opiate crisis.

### **Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House**

A slate of ballot proposals targeting labor laws was introduced Thursday in the House, drawing immediate pushback from one of the state's largest union groups.

The six joint resolutions from Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) would ban mandatory union dues for both public and private employees, limit prevailing wage and make other changes guaranteed to spark protests among Ohio's unions.

If passed by lawmakers, the issues would be placed on the 2020 ballot for voters to weigh in, according to Rep. Becker. He said he chose the resolution route after his prior legislative efforts went nowhere.

"It has to do with making Ohio more competitive," Rep. Becker said in an interview. "Currently, Ohio is being left behind. Four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states are right to work. With 28 (right-to-work) states in the union, the trend is clearly in that direction."

Two of the resolutions (HJR 7 & HJR 8) would ban any laws, rules or agreements requiring public and private sector employees to join or pay union dues. They would also prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment-related matters.

Other resolutions would:

- Prevent a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement project to pay workers the prevailing rate of wages (HJR 9).
- Forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts (HJR 10).
- Subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative (HJR 11).
- Prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and prohibit those fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the employee (HJR 12).

Along with Messrs. Becker and Riedel, nine other representatives have signed on as cosponsors of one or more of the resolutions.

Rep. Becker said Republican leaders, House Speaker candidates and Republican gubernatorial candidates have all told him the same thing: If Ohio is to become a right-to-work state, it needs to be a decision driven by voters.

"They've all got this one consistent theme: the voters have to decide," Rep. Becker said. "I'm taking them at their word and saying fine, let's move forward with that. That's what these resolutions would do. They go on the ballot for people to decide."

Brad Miller, a spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said the speaker will review the proposals.

"The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus," Mr. Miller said. "Since Rep. Becker's resolution was introduced just today, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined."

Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said that neither employers nor employees in Ohio are seeking these changes.

"These proposals are a frontal assault on workers," Mr. Burga said. "It does three things: It takes away rights at work, it drives down wages, and it strips workers of their political beliefs. It's really policies that attack the foundation of what's been a catalyst to create Ohio's working class."

Ohio House Democrats will likewise fight the proposals should they gain traction, with Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) calling them "dangerous, divisive bills."

"Taxpayers expect us to work together to increase opportunity and create jobs with wages and benefits that can sustain a family," Rep. Strahorn said. "These anti-worker, anti-family restrictions will do the exact opposite."

Opponents point to the public's rejection of 2011's Senate Bill 5 - in which voters voted 62-38% to repeal a law that limited collective bargaining for public employees - as evidence that Ohioans don't support such a move. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 8, 2011)

For that reason, Gov. John Kasich, commenting on prior right-to-work legislation from Rep. Becker and others, has said right-to-work is "not on my agenda."

But Rep. Becker contends that SB5 (129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) wasn't truly a right-to-work bill was but more focused on strikes, benefits and union negotiations. In his view, voters haven't weighed in on the issue since 1958 when voters by a 63-36% margin rejected a right-to-work amendment.

Rep. Becker said he approached Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) about supporting the resolutions but neither has signed on at this point as a cosponsor. Both men are vying to succeed Rep. Rosenberger as speaker.

But the sponsor said he believes the measures would have support in the caucus.

"In conversations with plenty of other colleagues beyond those nine (cosponsors) it's a whole lot of, 'We don't want to go on record with it' or 'we want to see which direction it goes,'" Rep. Becker said. "They just don't want to be in front of it right out of the gate. There's a lot of support, it's just not necessarily public."

Mr. Burga, though, said the proposals are a "political assault authored by out-of-state interests."

"It's never a good time to introduce bad policy but again this is an extreme measure without a constituency," Mr. Burga said. "I would say Ohioans deserve better than this. Just like on Senate Bill 5, we will fight these proposals and encourage legislators to work together to find common ground to create jobs and raise wages."

### **Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied**

The opiate epidemic continues to put a strain on Ohio's foster care system, with a thousand more kids expected to spend the holidays in foster care this year compared to 2016, a report released Thursday found.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio said the drug problem is driving a dramatic surge in demand for foster care, with the number of children in agency custody rising from 12,654 in July 2013 to 15,145 last July.

At this rate, the state would reach 20,000 kids in care by 2020, with the cost of placing them in foster homes and residential facilities rising to more than \$500 million per year.

"We are sounding the alarm now - we need help," PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser said in a statement. "We need substantially more state resources before we lose the ability to provide essential services to vulnerable children."

The data indicate increasing rates of growth in the number of children in care, with the total rising from 15,145 on July 1 to more than 15,500 on Oct. 1.

The association pointed to some help it received from the legislature in the budget bill (HB 49), an additional \$15 million. Yet foster care placement costs have increased by about \$45 million since last year, not counting staffing or other agency services, the group said.

"Ohio needs a long-term solution to this crisis - and leadership to get us there before agency budgets collapse and our workforce jumps ship," Ms. Sausser said. "We already have a lack of available foster homes in Ohio. With the projected increases, we will have children sleeping in county agency lobbies with no available foster family to take them in."

Other state efforts include work by Attorney General Mike DeWine's office including a 14-county pilot project designed to help families affected by parental opioid abuse. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 24, 2017) Another effort by the AG's office provides more funding for children services agencies to boost the number of foster families available. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

Ms. Sausser pointed to work in California, where that state is realigning services along a continuum of care.

The increase in placements, she said, doesn't include the number of children placed with relatives.

"Placing abused and neglected children with kin leads to better long-term outcomes and is far less costly to government, but it means that grandparents on fixed incomes and aunts with kids of their own must find a way to pay for food, clothes, child care and other expenses," she said. "The legislature stepped up again and provided \$15 million a year in federal funds to create child care assistance for kinship families. However, that program has been delayed."

**Overdose Totals:** In a related development, new data released by the federal government show Ohio with the second-highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country at 39.1 per 100,000 in 2016.

The numbers released by the National Center for Health Statistics showed Ohio with 4,329 overdose deaths last year, up from the 4,050 reported by the Department of Health in August. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2017)

Ohio's overdose total was exceeded only by those of Pennsylvania, California and Florida.

In terms of the death rate, Ohio's 39.1 per 100,000 ranked behind only West Virginia, which had a rate of 52. New Hampshire was at 39.0, the District of Columbia at 38.8 and Pennsylvania at 37.9.

National totals showed a continued increase in deaths from heroin and other opioids, coupled with a dramatic surge in the number of deaths from synthetic opioids other than methadone. Those deaths totaled 3,105, or 1 per 100,000, in 2013, but rose to more than 19,000, or a rate of 6.2, in 2016.

**House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers**



Drug dealers in Ohio could face much stiffer penalties under a proposal unveiled Thursday.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) announced plans to introduce legislation that would boost trafficking charges for all Schedule I and Schedule II substances, with the exception of marijuana, to a minimum third-degree felony that carries a mandatory prison term.



Scott Wiggam

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear for the law," Rep. Wiggam said during a Statehouse news conference.

While the lawmaker praised the state's effort to combat the drug epidemic, including \$180 million in the two-year budget (HB 49), he said deterrence and accountability are missing, and hopes his bill will provide those two components to the fight.

Over the past four years, he said, overdose deaths have skyrocketed by 212%, while traffickers going to prison fell by 4% over that same time period.

"Ohio's law is too weak to deter drug traffickers from continuing to flood our streets with their products," he said. "Law enforcement officers have grown weary and demoralized from arresting the same criminals for drug trafficking only to see them released into our society with little more than a slap on the wrist."

Wayne County Prosecutor Dan Lutz voiced that frustration. He said a trafficker in his county was recently arrested after knowingly selling heroin mixed with fentanyl that led to a user's overdose death. Among the charges his office brought was involuntary manslaughter, which was later amended to reckless homicide.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lutz said the judge in the case was not pleased with the man being charged for the death of the user and told defense counsel to seek a bench trial, which they did. The individual was eventually found guilty of a single drug trafficking charge.

"Amazingly, he sentenced him to only probation," Mr. Lutz said, adding the man went right back to selling heroin.

The bill will not differentiate between those who are trafficking large amounts of drugs for profit and those who are selling small amounts to support a habit. Mr. Lutz said both are killing people by selling deadly drugs.

"We want to deter that," he said. "We want to make it too costly to do that."

Despite the bill treating addicts and large-scale traffickers the same, Rep. Wiggam said it does not take away from changes in law in recent years that have sought to treat those two groups of individuals differently in the criminal justice system.

"If you are an addict and you are selling, you are still engaged in selling," he said.

As for the impact on the state's prison population, Rep. Wiggam said he is unsure exactly how his legislation will impact the numbers. He added that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has yet to take a position on the bill.

But Mr. Lutz said when discussing the state's prison population, the cost-benefit analysis does not take into account the cost savings from not having people on the streets "wreaking havoc."

"Some people need to be locked up in prisons, and these are those people," he said.

Asked about the philosophy of some in the law enforcement community, including Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has repeatedly said the state cannot "arrest its way out" of the drug problem, Mr. Lutz said that attitude needs to change.

"We've got to prevent people from getting on this stuff in the first place," he said.

Mike Brem, president of the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, likened the battle against opioids to the fight against crack.

"We feel this penalty increase will deter drug traffickers as it did the same way with the crack epidemic in the 80's," he said.

The legislation, dubbed the "Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act," has 18 co-sponsors, according to Rep. Wiggam.

The bill also has the backing of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the OTFCA, Rep. Wiggam said.

### **'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018**

A Thai petrochemical company now says it will have news on whether it plans to move forward with a proposed world-class ethane cracker plant sometime after the new year.

PTT Global, Gov. John Kasich and JobsOhio leaders in 2015 announced at a Statehouse press conference that the company - Thailand's largest petrochemical and refining company - was eyeing Belmont County for the \$6 billion plant. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2015)

A final investment decision was initially expected in 2016 but was then pushed to 2017. Last February, the company announced it would postpone a final decision until late 2017 but with January drawing near the lack of recent news has kept locals hoping for an announcement in suspense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2017)

On Thursday, the company foreshadowed a "significant update" sometime early next year.

"PTTGC America will have a significant update that will demonstrate momentum for this project early in 2018," the company said. "We thank all Ohio and Belmont County partners for their support, and we wish you a happy holiday season."

The last news of the project came in October, when JobsOhio and PTT representatives met in Washington D.C. to ink a memorandum of understanding. In the MOU, the parties agreed to establish a community infrastructure development plan after a final investment decision has been reached. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 6, 2017)

Asked about the project's status, JobsOhio spokesman Matt Englehart said talks are ongoing.

"While a final investment decision has not yet been made, PTTGCA continues to collaborate with JobsOhio and local partners while investing time and resources to move this project forward," he said.

JobsOhio and the Kasich administration have touted the potential project as a boon for region that will draw in jobs and economic revitalization.

The company had committed to a \$100 million investment as it considers the move and earlier this year purchased 168 acres from FirstEnergy for the site to the tune of \$13.8 million.

Despite that, the potential development of similar plants in nearby West Virginia and Pennsylvania subsequent to PTT's 2015 announcement has sparked speculation from those not involved in the talks regarding the Belmont County project's future.

### **Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline**

A federal district court judge has tossed out a lawsuit from dozens of Ohio property owners seeking to halt work on the Nexus Pipeline.

But it's hardly the only lawsuit targeting the construction of the \$2 billion, 255-mile natural gas pipeline that's yet to be resolved.

In May, 39 households - comprising 65 individuals - sued the company and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in an effort to halt the project.

The property owners said the company is improperly using eminent domain and argued FERC has failed to provide adequate information to homeowners regarding their options. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 15, 2017)

A magistrate in August issued a recommendation that the court deny plaintiffs' motion, opining that without formal FERC approval the court lacks adequate jurisdiction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017)

Weeks later, FERC approved the project, which Nexus argued in court filings made the lawsuit moot. Construction was then authorized to begin in October after several preconstruction conditions were met. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2017)

Judge John Adams agreed with the magistrate and his ruling this week from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio adopts the magistrate's prior recommendation in its entirety.

Plaintiffs may now appeal to the U.S. Sixth Circuit court of Appeals. That's the same court that late last month voted 2-1 to stay construction on an eight-mile stretch of the pipeline through the city of Green. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 27, 2017)

Green is one of several localities - with others including Oberlin, Bowling Green and Medina - that have protested the project.

Green's lawsuit argues the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency granted the project a 401 certification improperly because the agency was not provided with practicable alternative routes with a smaller adverse environmental impact.

Sierra Club had also sued FERC over the pipeline's status, pressing D.C. circuit court to require FERC to rehear the case. But the group was forced to petition for the case to be

dismissed after the landowner at the heart of the complaint agreed to sell land to Nexus for the project.

### **Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA**

If Congress doesn't act to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Ohio could lose out on as much as \$12 million per year in tax revenue, according to a new report.

That total is how much the 9,000 Ohioans who are eligible for the program are currently paying in taxes, Policy Matters Ohio reported Thursday. All would be lost, however, if the protections for immigrants who are working and attending school are eliminated and those so-called Dreamers are deported.

If those same individuals stay in the state without DACA, many would likely take on lower-wage jobs, resulting in an estimated \$5 million tax revenue loss, the think tank said. About 4,000 Ohioans are actually participating in the program.

"Allowing DACA protections to expire would really hurt Ohio but passage of a Dream Act could boost out long-term economic output," Daniel Ortiz, outreach coordinator for Policy Matters Ohio, said in a conference call with reporters.

If Congress acts to reauthorize the program that was nixed by the Trump Administration in September, the state's gross domestic product could see a long-term annual impact of \$92 million, Mr. Ortiz said, citing Center for American Progress estimates.

Ohio's GDP could increase by more than \$300 million annually if half the eligible Dreamers earn college degrees to obtain permanent residence, he said.

"The Dream Act would put these young immigrants on a path to pay their taxes like everyone else and really could facilitate open participation in our communities," Mr. Ortiz said.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) has said he's working with Republicans on a bill that would continue protections for the children of illegal immigrants, however those who are impacted by and supportive of the program say Congress can't move quick enough. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

If a continuation or replacement isn't approved by March 5, as many as 1,200 Dreamers per day throughout the country will see their DACA authorizations expire, Mr. Ortiz said. Under the administration's plan, those who are currently part of the program will be sheltered until their permits expire or up to two years, whichever comes first.

Elvis Saldias, a DACA recipient who lives in Columbus, said his permit expires in about six months and he's not legally permitted to continue working as a property claims adjuster if his authorization lapses by even one day.

The recent Ohio State University graduate who came to America from Boliva more than 15 years ago said he would also no longer be able to continue mentoring the state's youngest immigrants attending Columbus Global Academy.

"I need to continue doing what I'm doing," he said, adding: "I can't imagine the urgency behind those (whose authorizations) have already expired."

Mr. Saldias told reporters the DACA application process, which includes an extensive background check, takes about five months from start to finish - another reason legislation needs passed as soon as possible.

"If they pass a bill today, it doesn't mean we're going to get our renewed DACA...in the mail," he said.

Lynn Tramonte, Director of America's Voice Ohio, called the DACA rescission a crisis, saying Congress can't wait until it's up against the March deadline to make a decision.

"The deadline was September," when the administration stalled the program, she said on the conference call. "People became ineligible suddenly overnight and were unable to apply. Those qualified for renewal were cut off. It's a crisis and...it has really impacts on everybody's lives."

Calls for quick action are growing louder for DACA to be Congress's next order of business now that it's finalized a tax overhaul and appears headed for a Friday vote on another stop-gap funding bill to prevent a government shutdown.

On Wednesday, Gov. John Kasich joined 10 other governors in asking Congress to quickly find a bipartisan solution to the issue. About 800 colleges and universities in the country, including a handful from Ohio, have also pressed for a resolution. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

U.S. Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) has said there is an interest in reinstating DACA into permanent law, but it may come with some parameters, such as a workforce enforcement program.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which backed President Trump's longtime plan to end the program and leave its future up to Congress, has also said DACA's recession opens to the door to create a larger immigration strategy that could include building a southern border wall and defunding sanctuary cities.

"Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms in our nation's immigration policy," the group said in a statement.

### **High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal**

The Board of Tax Appeals erred in dismissing an appeal filed by NASCAR, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

In a 6-1 per curiam decision, the court sided with the Florida-based company by finding that the BTA has jurisdiction to hear an appeal even when the notice is filed by an individual not licensed to practice law in Ohio on behalf of a taxpayer with authorization.

The decision hinged on a 1980 ruling in *Jemo Assoc., Inc. v. Lindley* in which the court found that any authorized agent may file an appeal on behalf of a taxpayer, even if doing so amounts to the unauthorized practice of law, the court's media arm reported.

After conducting an audit for tax years 2005 to 2010, the Department of Taxation in 2012 determined NASCAR failed to pay the Commercial Activity Tax for broadcasting its product in Ohio.

The company was assessed \$549,520, but filed a petition for reassessment with the tax commissioner, who affirmed the finding.

NASCAR then took its case to the BTA. But because its notice of appeal was filed by a Florida attorney not licensed to practice in Ohio, the BTA dismissed the case.

The high court, however, found that the BTA was wrong to do so.

"In this case, there appears to be no dispute that NASCAR authorized Bowen to file the notice of appeal to the BTA," the court wrote in its decision. "So under (state law) and *Jemo*, the notice of appeal filed by Bowen properly invoked the BTA's jurisdiction. Therefore, the BTA erred in dismissing NASCAR's appeal for lack of jurisdiction."

Justice Patrick Fischer was the lone dissenting voice in the case. He cited the 1997 high court case of *Sharon Village Ltd. v. Licking Cty. Bd. of Revision*. In that case the court found that non-attorneys cannot file property value complaints on behalf of corporate taxpayers.

"I would hold that barring a statutory exception, when an appeal to the BTA is filed by a non-attorney, the non-attorney has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and the BTA does not, therefore, have jurisdiction to hear the appeal," he wrote. "The nonbinding plurality opinion in *Jemo* does not conclude otherwise, and even if it could be read to do so, in light of *Sharon Village*, it has been superseded. For these reasons, it was neither unreasonable nor unlawful for the BTA to follow *Sharon Village* and its progeny and to not follow *Jemo*."

### **Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...**

A new poll released jointly Thursday by Morning Consult and POLITICO has ominous signs for Republicans heading into 2018.

The poll found that Democrats hold a 10-point lead over Republicans on generic midterm ballots, with 44% respondents indicating they would vote for a Democrat in November compared with 34% who said the same about a Republican.

That is an increase from the prior week when 41% of respondents said they would vote for the Democratic candidate. Republicans polled at 36% last week.

The poll also recorded the highest "wrong direction" mark since mid-October, with 63% of respondents saying they believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Another finding was that Republicans may be on the wrong side of the net neutrality debate, with 49% saying that repeal was the wrong decision and just 21% saying it was the right decision.

One of the few bright spots for Republicans in the poll is that enthusiasm is higher on their side, with 64% saying they are motivated to vote in 2018, compared to 56% of Democrats.

**Fundraising Numbers:** Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) took to Twitter Thursday to tout fundraising numbers for his bid to replace U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Galena).

"Great fundraising results this week! We have \$120,000.00 in commitments and we begin collecting them Jan 2," he wrote.

**Scott Announcement:** On the Democratic of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Race, former Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott formally announced his candidacy for the seat.

"I'm proud of the service and peace of mind I have provided to victims and their families over the past thirty years. Making communities safer by putting dangerous criminals behind bars while helping countless nonviolent offenders get their lives back on track hasn't just been my job - it's been my passion," he said.

"Now I'm going to take that same passion to Congress, where I will get laws passed that put our families and our communities first. Unfortunately, we have all seen too many Washington politicians who are more concerned with serving themselves than serving the public. All too often, Congress caters to powerful special interest groups while the pressing needs of everyday working families fall through the cracks."

**Opioid Crisis:** In light of a lawsuit filed against the pharmaceutical industry by Summit County and a report showing overdose deaths in Ohio increased by 24% in 2016, Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) called on drug manufacturers to take responsibility for their role in the opioid epidemic.

"Ohio's opioid epidemic is the result of a myriad of issues," she said. "The key players need to be held accountable and unfortunately, one of the largest is the pharmaceutical industry. By not being clear about the addictive properties of opioids, they have put Ohioans at risk for addiction. I believe this lawsuit is an excellent response to help hard working families needing a helping hand."



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**From:** Miller, Brad  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:26 AM  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 12/27/2017

## **HOUSE E-CLIPS**

**12/27/2017**

### **The Columbus Dispatch** *Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

#### **COLUMBUS BREAKS HOMICIDE RECORD WITH 140 LIVES CUT SHORT SO FAR THIS YEAR**

With just days left before 2017 wraps up, the city broke a homicide record Tuesday with 140 deaths so far this year.

#### **GOVERNOR'S RACE Q&A | JOE SCHIAVONI**

The Dispatch series of Q&As for Ohio's gubernatorial candidates continues with state Sen. Joe Schiavoni, D-Boardman.

#### **EDITORIAL: GET CRACKIN', UPDATE VOTING**

Replacing Ohio's aging voting machines will be a costly and controversial process, pressing the need for the governor and legislature to carve out funding in the state's upcoming capital budget to help counties afford secure and efficient voting equipment before the highly scrutinized 2020 presidential election.

### **Dayton Daily News** [www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

#### **DAYTON EXTENDS TAX BREAK FOR DOWNTOWN HOUSING REHAB DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION**

The city of Dayton's elected leaders have approved extending the tax abatement on downtown residential rehab projects to 15 years — a move opposed by a couple of school board members.

#### **OHIO VOTERS MAY CHANGE WAY CONGRESS LINES ARE DRAWN**

Political operatives for generations have redrawn legislative and congressional districts to benefit the party in power.

#### **FUYAO SPENT NEARLY \$800K WITH CONSULTANT IN UNION BATTLE**

Fuyao Glass America paid \$747,410 to an Oklahoma-based consulting firm that boasts of helping companies in the art of "union avoidance," according to a document filed with the U.S. Department of Labor.

#### **JANUARY WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL MONTH TO LOOK INTO THE SKY. HERE'S WHY.**

It is hard to believe 2017 is coming to a close in just a matter of days. You must admit, it has been an interesting year for weather.

### **PIPELINE FOR DAYTON JOBS EXPECTED TO BE STRONG IN 2018**

The year coming to an end was a strong one for capital investment and salaries in business projects, according to Dayton Development Coalition President and Chief Executive Jeff Hoagland.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **GOV. JOHN KASICH SIGNS DOWN SYNDROME ABORTION BAN**

Ohio on Friday became the fourth state to ban abortions performed after a prenatal test shows the fetus has or might have Down syndrome.

### **CONGRESS PASSES SHERROD BROWN BILL TO BUY FENTANYL DETECTION DEVICES**

The U.S. Senate on Thursday unanimously passed a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown that allocates \$15 million for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to buy and use portable screening equipment to detect fentanyl before it enters the United States.

## **THE BLADE**

One of America's Great Newspapers

### **PROGRAMS OFFER HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**

With local weather forecasts showing temperatures staying well below freezing for the rest of 2017, Toledoans can be forgiven for turning up the thermostats ever so slightly this week.

### **EDITORIAL: GUARANTEE FOR A DEGREE**

One of the toughest challenges for families preparing to send their high school seniors off to college is planning for the expense of four years — or more — of tuition.

### **EDITORIAL: WHAT MISS KAPTUR SAID**

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) recently took a lot of flack after she criticized the plunging necklines of some of her congressional colleagues and their staffers.

**CantonRep.com**  
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

### **EDITORIAL: WORKPLACE SAFETY DATA HEADING IN WRONG DIRECTION**

We've entered the week of the year when it becomes common to look back at the preceding 12 months (or some similar time period) and form conclusions about what occurred — the good, the bad and the ugly — with the idea we will make some kind of resolution for improvement in the new year.

rray19

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**From:** rray19@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:39 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

Sarah LaTourette,

I am deeply disturbed by the recent co-sponsorship request from Representative Beckers office that puts forward six different anti-worker Constitutional Amendments. I am asking you as your constituent and a voter to not sign on as a co-sponsor or to support any of these proposals and to actively work to ensure that none of them advance to the Senate.

These six proposals would effectively undo labor law that has helped serve as a catalyst to create Ohio's middle class.

These proposals are nothing but a an attempt bu out-of-state groups like ALEC to silence workers at the workplace and slash wages and benefits at a time when they have been stagnant for far too long.

Neither employers nor workers and union members like myself are asking for these union-busting bills to be enacted.

Working people overwhelmingly rejected these types of attacks in 2011 when they used the citizens' veto and repealed Senate Bill 5. Ohioans strongly believe that it is past time to put the ugliness and spitefulness behind us and work to find common ground with all political parties, business and labor, on different ways to grow our economy from the middle out and raise wages for all.

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Richard Ray II  
rray19@gmail.com  
11794 Lyman Rd.  
Chesterland , Ohio 44026

davebn

---

**From:** davebn@windstream.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

DAVID NELSON  
davebn@windstream.net  
12645 Klatka Dr  
Chardon, Ohio 44024-8305

**bboross430**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Brian Boross  
bboross430@gmail.com  
1224 Aurora Hill drive  
Aurora, Ohio 44202

mike1mike2

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**From:** mike1mike2@roadrunner.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

MICHAEL MORELL  
mike1mike2@roadrunner.com  
8936 RIVERSIDE LANE  
BAINBRIDGE, Ohio 44023

mffriedman

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**From:** mffriedman@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Margaret Friedman  
mffriedman@yahoo.com  
8345 Sherman Rd  
OH, Ohio 44026



mlsctwin

---

**From:** mlsctwin@live.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Terry Messer  
mlsctwin@live.com  
12607 State Route 700  
Hiram, Ohio 44234

4544brock

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**From:** 4544brock@att.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Dennis Wiese  
4544brock@att.net  
4544 Franklin st  
Mantua, Ohio 44255

susan.slotninck

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**From:** susan.slotninck@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Susan

Susan Slotnick  
susan.slotninck@gmail.com  
7510 Kinsman Road  
Novelty, Ohio 44072

**farky67**

---

**From:** farky67@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** Please don't support any of Rep. Beckers Anti-Union Bills

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**STAND UP FOR WORKING OHIOANS & REFUSE TO SUPPORT DESTRUCTIVE ANTI- LABOR INITIATIVES!**

Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Steven Farkas  
farky67@yahoo.com  
16129 East High St Apt 315  
Middlefield, Ohio 44062

arnettstvn

---

**From:** arnettstvn@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
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Steven Arnett  
arnettstvn@aol.com  
1121 lake ave  
aurora , Ohio 44202

gnemeth127

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
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Thank you for your consideration on this vital matter.

Garry Nemeth  
gnemeth127@gmail.com  
7560 country lane  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023-1310

fdwelt

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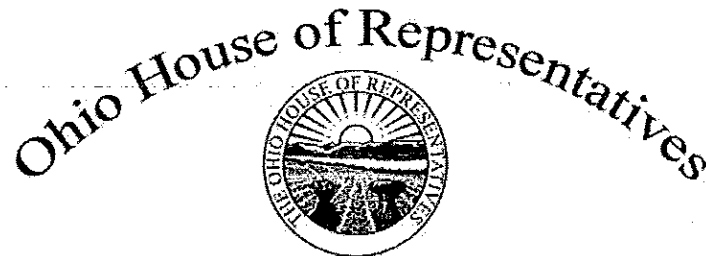
**From:** fdwelt@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** rep76@ohiohouse.gov  
**Subject:** Right to work bill

Sarah LaTourette,

Dear Rep. LaTourette,

I understand that Ohio is considering a so-called right to work bill. Please vote against this law. It is an extreme right measure which is designed to make union organizing difficult and undermine the effectiveness of unions. It is no coincidence that income inequality and the demise of unions have worked together. Do you want unions to become a thing of the past? I hope not!

Fred Welty  
fdwelt@gmail.com  
11630 Butternut Rd.  
Chardon, Ohio 44024



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel  
Ohio's 82<sup>nd</sup> House District

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** GOP House Members  
**From:** Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017  
**RE:** REVISED Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

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The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

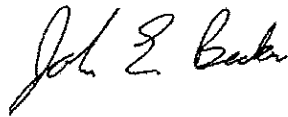
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.



These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or [joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov). Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY-Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> House District



Craig S. Riedel  
State Representative  
82<sup>nd</sup> House District

**From:** Price, Ciara  
**Sent:** Friday, December 29, 2017 11:41 AM  
**To:** 'spiderwebb500@aol.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments  
**Attachments:** Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Michalowski, Joe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Cc:** Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments  
**Importance:** High

### **Representative Craig S. Riedel**

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

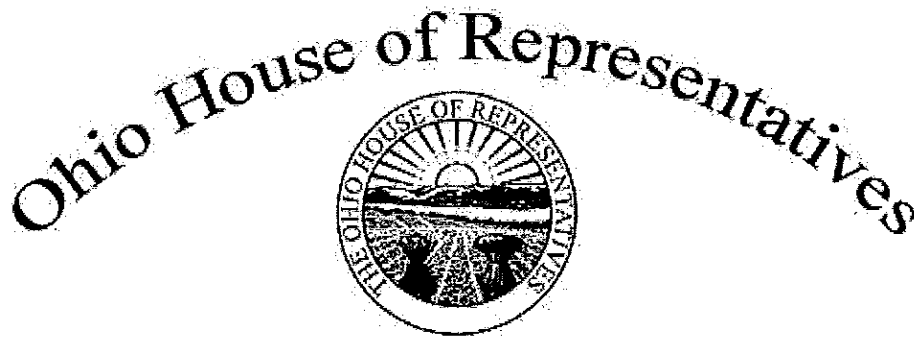
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger.

Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

**Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM.** Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

**Representative Craig S. Riedel**  
Ohio's 82<sup>nd</sup> House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members  
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel  
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

**RE:       REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments**

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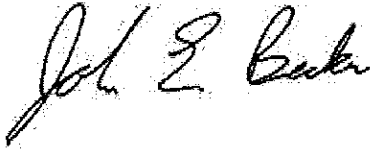
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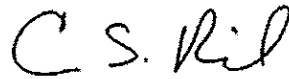
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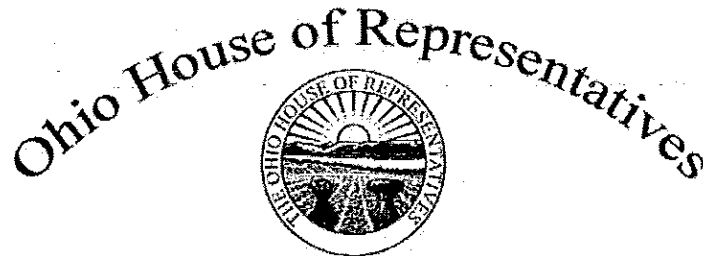
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Craig S. Riedel  
State Representative  
82<sup>nd</sup> House District



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

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To: GOP House Members  
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Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017  
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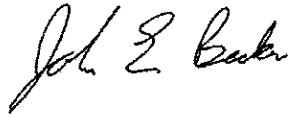
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These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or [joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov). Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> House District



Craig S. Riedel  
State Representative  
82<sup>nd</sup> House District

**From:** Rick Webb, Kathleen Webb  
**Sent:** Friday, December 29, 2017 11:47 AM  
**To:** Price, Ciara  
**Subject:** Re: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Wow, Ciara, that was quick! Thank you.  
Merry 5th Day of Christmas, and Happy New Year!  
~ Kathleen Webb  
-----Original Message-----

To: 'spiderwebb500@aol.com'  
Sent: Fri, Dec 29, 2017 11:40 am  
Subject: FW: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

---

**From:** Michalowski, Joe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM  
**To:** Michalowski, Joe <[Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Cc:** Basie, Margaret <[Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov)>  
**Subject:** Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments  
**Importance:** High

**Representative Craig S. Riedel**  
has signed on to all six of these constitutional  
amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep.  
Becker.

Each of the six amendments would appear on  
Ohio's general election ballot on November 3,  
2020.

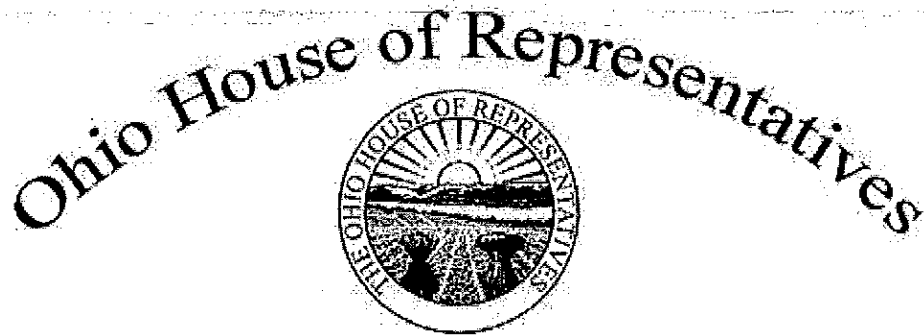
The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep.  
Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep.  
Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger.



Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

**Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM.** Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District  
Representative Craig S. Riedel  
Ohio's 82<sup>nd</sup> House District  
**MEMORANDUM**

**To: GOP House Members**

**From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel**

**Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017**

**RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments**

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation’s future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio’s future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or [joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov). Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



C S. Riedel

John Becker Craig S. Riedel  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> House District 82<sup>nd</sup> House District

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
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**To:** DL Gongwer  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, January 3

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## NEWS

Lawmakers push right-to-work for 2020 ballot (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/3/2018)

Democrat in Ohio governor's race picks running mate: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohioans can apply for amnesty to settle unreported tax debts: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohio's child support system: Everyone agrees it's broken. But a fix has taken 25 years – and counting. (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)

**Ohio's move to toss inactive voters from rolls goes to court (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)**

**Joe Schiavoni picks state board of education member as running mate (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)**

**Medical device tax is back; industry seeks repeal (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)**

**19-year-old takes office as city council member in eastern Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)**

**Governor's race Q and A | Mary Taylor (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)**

**Joe Schiavoni picks Stephanie Dodd as running mate (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)**

**Ohio Supreme Court wants state's execution-drug records (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)**

**From pizza delivery robots, to boozy ice cream, a look at new Ohio laws (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)**

**On Twitter, President Trump comes out swinging in 2018 (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)**

**2018 could be a busy ballot year in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

**Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Canton Repository, 1/3/2018)**

**Ohio lawmakers should keep the seriously mentally ill off Death Row: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)**

## **Senators working to turn tide of drug epidemic (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)**

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**To:** Rep76

**Subject:** Just Announced: Heartland's Hottest Speakers for 2018

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The Heartland Institute's senior fellows, managing editors, and senior staff make outstanding speakers at public events. We feature some of the nation's most knowledgeable and dynamic free-market public policy experts.

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Heartland's speakers write thousands of articles each year, ranging from op-eds in major U.S. newspapers to in-depth policy studies and books. They appear frequently on television on CNBC, Fox News, CNN, and PBS, and on the opinion-editorial pages of *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Investor's Business Daily*, and many more. They also testify frequently before Congress and state legislatures.

For more information on The Heartland Speakers Bureau, please visit our website or contact Nikki Comerford by email (speaker fees may be waived based on qualifications).

## **Featured Speakers**

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## **Dr. Tim Huelskamp**

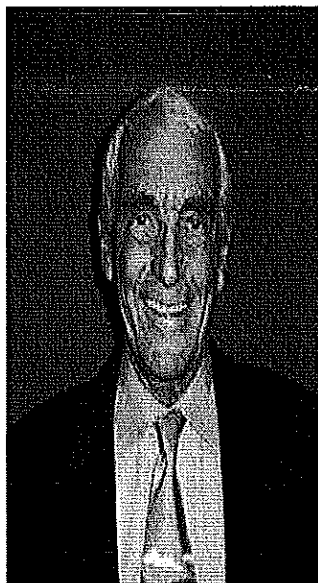
### **Economy, Government & Politics, Regulation**

**Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.**, was named president of The Heartland Institute in July 2017. From 2011 to 2017, Dr. Huelskamp served three terms in Congress representing the 1st District in Kansas. While in Congress, Huelskamp advocated on behalf of conservative, free-market solutions in a wide range of policy arenas and served on numerous committees. On the Veterans Affairs Committee, he was a leader in pushing through a historic health care choice option for veterans.

Dr. Huelskamp helped grow the House Freedom and Liberty Caucuses, chaired and expanded the Tea Party Caucus, fought the Waters of the United States Rule, worked on budgets in the Republican Study Committee, and co-founded Conversations with Conservatives, a monthly House conservative press availability.

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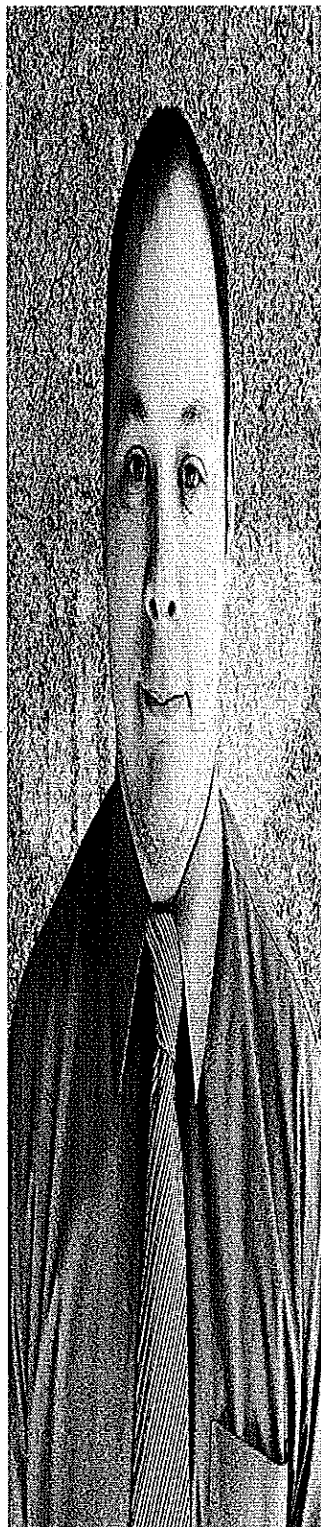


## **Dr. Jay Lehr**

### **Climate Change, Energy, Environment**

**Jay Lehr, Ph.D.**, is the science director at The Heartland Institute. He is an internationally renowned speaker, scientist, and author who has testified before Congress on dozens of occasions on environmental issues and consulted with nearly every agency of the national government, as well as many foreign countries.

Lehr is the author of more than 1,000 magazine and journal articles and 36 books. He is editor of *Rational Readings on Environmental Concerns*, McGraw-Hill's *Handbook on Environmental Science, Health and Technology* (2000); Wiley's *Remediation Technologies Handbook* (2004); the *Environmental Instrumentation and Analysis Handbook* (2005), the six-volume *Water Encyclopedia* (Wiley Interscience, 2005); and Wiley Interscience's *Nuclear Energy Encyclopedia: Science, Technology, and Applications* (2011).



## **John Nothdurft**

**Alcohol & Tobacco, Government Spending,  
Taxes**

**John Nothdurft** joined the staff of The Heartland Institute in May 2008 as Heartland's legislative specialist on budget and tax policy. He was named government relations director in 2010.

Nothdurft is a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force, and he has testified before multiple state legislatures on a wide range of issues. His work has been published in scores of publications, including the Chicago Tribune, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Detroit News, Chicago Sun-Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and Investor's Business Daily.



## Isaac Orr

### Energy, Environment

**Isaac Orr** is a research fellow for energy and environmental policy at The Heartland Institute. Orr is a speaker, researcher, and writer specializing in hydraulic fracturing, frac sand mining, and agricultural and environmental policy issues. Prior to coming to Heartland, Orr worked as an aide in the Wisconsin State Senate, where he served as a lead-office writer and a policy advisor on frac sand mining and agricultural issues.

Orr has written a Heartland Policy Study on fracking titled "Hydraulic Fracturing: A Game-Changer for U.S. Energy and Economies" and has coauthored multiple policy studies on frac sand mining, including "Environmental Impacts of Industrial Silica Sand (Frac Sand) Mining" and "Economic Impacts of Industrial Silica Sand (Frac Sand) Mining," in addition to his article "Frac Sand Study Lots of Scare, Little Science," published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in October of 2014. His writing has appeared in USA Today, the New York Post, The Hill, Orange County Register, and Washington Times. His work on fracking is also featured in an upcoming book entitled Alternative Energy and Shale Gas

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Encyclopedia, published by John Wiley & Sons,  
Inc.

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Nikki Comerford  
The Heartland Institute  
3939 North Wilke Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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**From:** SarahLaTourette  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2018 1:13 PM  
**To:** Price, Ciara  
**Subject:** Fwd: ALEC Dinner - 2/21

Can you add this too? Waiting on more details.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Amy Kerschner" <[amykerschner@woh.rr.com](mailto:amykerschner@woh.rr.com)>  
**Date:** January 5, 2018 at 10:33:45 AM EST  
**To:** <[AmyKerschner@outlook.com](mailto:AmyKerschner@outlook.com)>  
**Subject:** ALEC Dinner - 2/21

Good Morning - Megan Lashutka is working to schedule an ALEC dinner with the leadership team on Wednesday, February 21. Specific time and location have not been confirmed – it will be in Columbus. Are you available that evening?

Thanks!  
Amy

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 8:34 AM  
**To:** DL\_Gongwer  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Monday, January 8

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## NEWS

**Governor names second Ohio poet laureate (Associated Press, 1/8/2018)**

**Proposed Ohio law would prevent forced nurse overtime (Associated Press, 1/8/2018)**

**Mandel's shocking exit has Republicans concerned (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/8/2018)**

**Ohio's next governor: sorting out 9 candidates (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/8/2018)**

**Social media reactions to Mandel's decision to exit U.S. Senate race  
(Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/8/2018)**

**Jeff Johnson, former Cleveland councilman, plans to challenge Ohio  
Sen. Sandra Williams in May primary (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/8/2018)**

**Josh Mandel drops out of the Senate race (Cleveland Plain Dealer,  
1/8/2018)**

**Marijuana legal in most states, but in few states won by Donald Trump  
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/8/2018)**

**Ohio still has a political gender gap, but not in the race for governor: A  
Woman's Place (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/8/2018)**

**ECOT case prompts calls for better rules to verify student enrollment  
(Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Grandparents raising kids of addicts struggle with little aid (Columbus  
Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Josh Mandel quitting US Senate challenge of Sherrod Brown seat  
(Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Ohio purge of voter rolls gets Supreme Court scrutiny this week  
(Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Ohio school districts anxious for refunds from ECOT's \$60 million  
repayment (Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Taylor stays firm with governor run; Renacci reportedly considering bid  
for Senate (Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Top Ohio House GOP aide leaving for campaign roles (Columbus  
Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Will 2018 be the political year of the woman? (Columbus Dispatch,  
1/8/2018)**

**Are you owed money? Ohio's unclaimed fund hits \$2.6 billion (Dayton Daily News, 1/8/2018)**

**Group pushing ballot measure to increase regulation of puppy mills (Dayton Daily News, 1/8/2018)**

**Josh Mandel drops out of the U.S. Senate race against Sherrod Brown (Dayton Daily News, 1/8/2018)**

**Key issue in court case: Did Ohio deprive people of right to vote? (Dayton Daily News, 1/8/2018)**

**Ohio voters will have multiple candidates to choose from in 2018 (Toledo Blade, 1/8/2018)**

**Republican lawmakers push to make Ohio "right to work" (Toledo Blade, 1/8/2018)**

**Senator Brown in Toledo to tout anti-fentanyl act (Toledo Blade, 1/8/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

**Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: This is the time to protect Dreamers (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/8/2018)**

**Voting in Ohio matters - look at the 141 ties and one-vote races in the last five years: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/8/2018)**

**Editorial: Legislature failed Ohio consumers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**

**Editorial: One vote does count: See Va. and Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/8/2018)**



## **Opioid aid for Ohio's towns (Toledo Blade, 1/8/2018)**

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**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 8:36 AM  
**To:** Rep76  
**Subject:** Ohio Chamber Legislative Update January 8

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## Legislative Update

January 8, 2018

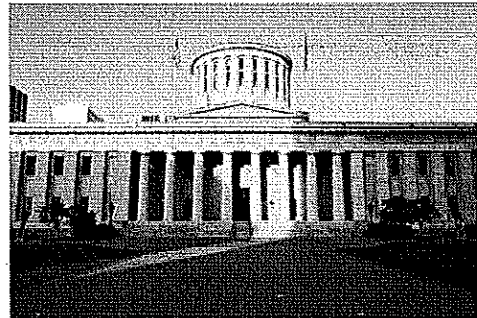
***Read about the issues that impact your business.***

**We're All For .....**

**Enacting Business Priorities**

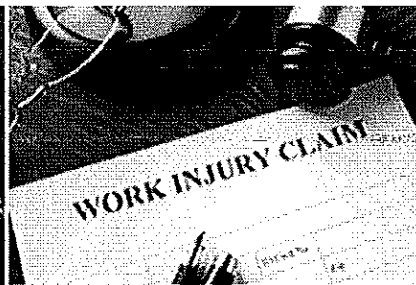
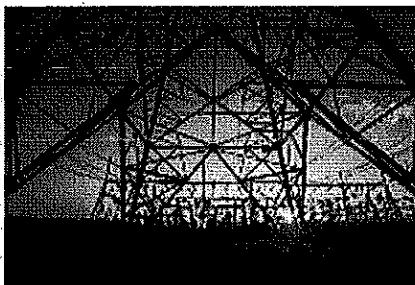
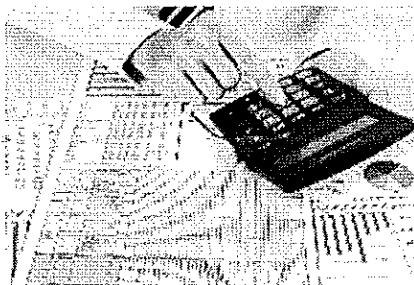
Following a bizarre year, business priorities are queued up for action in 2018. To learn what happened (or didn't happen) in 2017 and what to watch for legislatively in 2018 read our legislative wrap-up by [clicking here](#).

[Click here](#) to read about the bills we are following.



**We're All for Providing Information**

Be sure to read our latest blog posts on [allforohio.com](http://allforohio.com) for additional information that is of interest to Ohio Chamber members. Here are our blog posts from the past two weeks:



**Important Labor & Employment Provisions Included in Federal Tax Bill**  
[Read More](#)

**New Year Begins With Focus on Familiar Topic: Reforming Ohio's Energy Efficiency Mandates**  
[Click here](#)

**BWC to Push Wellness, Workforce Safety in 2018**  
[Read More](#)

### **We're All for Connections**

Our issue-specific business advocates can help you navigate legislative and regulatory issues that impact your business. Our membership specialists can guide you through the services we offer. Our communications team can make sure you are getting the information you need. Just let us know how we can help. Here's how you can reach us:



### **Contact Ohio Chamber Lobbyists**

**Keith Lake, Vice President Government Affairs**  
[klake@ohiochamber.com](mailto:klake@ohiochamber.com)

**Don Boyd, Director Labor & Legal Affairs**  
[dboyd@ohiochamber.com](mailto:dboyd@ohiochamber.com)

**Zack Frymier, Director Energy & Environmental Policy**  
[zfrymier@ohiochamber.com](mailto:zfrymier@ohiochamber.com)

**Jeff McClain, Director Tax & Economic Policy**  
[jmcclain@ohiochamber.com](mailto:jmcclain@ohiochamber.com)

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[occ@ohiochamber.com](mailto:occ@ohiochamber.com)

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2018 9:39 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 1/8/2018

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/8/2018



### **OHIO BANS SALE OF DOZENS OF INVASIVE PLANTS UNDER NEW RULES**

Ohio has banned the sale of more than three dozen invasive plant species under new rules that took effect Sunday.

### **PROPOSED OHIO LAW WOULD PREVENT FORCED NURSE OVERTIME**

A shortage of nurses in Ohio has prompted a state lawmaker to propose a law that would ban hospitals from requiring nurses to work overtime.



### **JOSH MANDEL QUITTING US SENATE CHALLENGE OF SHERROD BROWN SEAT**

Because of an unspecified health issue involving his wife, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel is dropping out of the race to challenge Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

### **KASICH SETS PRIMARY FOR TIBERI SEAT FOR MAY 8; SPECIAL ELECTION ON AUG. 7**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich has set the elections in which voters will determine who will be nominated — and ultimately serve — the remainder of the term of resigning U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi.

### **OHIO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BE SOFTENED FOR CLASSES OF 2019 AND 2020**

The Ohio Board of Education is expected to urge lawmakers next week to back off tougher new requirements to graduate high school for at least another two years.

### **TAYLOR STAYS FIRM WITH GOVERNOR RUN; RENACCI REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING BID FOR SENATE**

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor plans to stay the course with her run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination and will not seek to replace Josh Mandel in the GOP quest to unseat Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown this year.

### **38 SPECIES OF INVASIVE PLANTS NOW ILLEGAL TO SELL IN OHIO**

Ohio is taking a swing at nature's bullies.

### **ECOT CASE PROMPTS CALLS FOR BETTER RULES TO VERIFY STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

As the Ohio Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments in ECOT's lawsuit regarding repayments for unverified students, some legislators say it's time for more clarity.

### **TOP OHIO HOUSE GOP AIDE LEAVING FOR CAMPAIGN ROLES**

After 15 years in the Ohio House, having worked his way up from low-level page to chief of staff for the speaker, Mike Dittoe is stepping down.

### **OHIO PURGE OF VOTER ROLLS GETS SUPREME COURT SCRUTINY THIS WEEK**

To the state of Ohio, it is nothing more than a housekeeping device to keep the voting rolls up to date.

### **OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANXIOUS FOR REFUNDS FROM ECOT'S \$60 MILLION REPAYMENT**

The checks are not yet in the mail, but they will be coming.

### **WILL 2018 BE THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN? SIGNS POINT TO YES**

On any given year, EMILY'S List — the Democratic organization that recruits pro-choice women to run for office — draws the interest of a few hundred women thinking of running for office.

### **EDITORIAL: LEGISLATURE FAILED OHIO CONSUMERS**

The Ohio legislature's blinkered priorities and pandering to industry interests is made plain in its failure to end the abusive practices of "submetering," which forces more than 28,000 households in central Ohio alone to pay heftier electricity and water bills.

**Dayton Daily News**  
[www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

### **GROUP PUSHING BALLOT MEASURE TO INCREASE REGULATION OF PUPPY MILLS**

Following a dramatic showdown between animal rights groups and agriculture heavy weights seven years ago, Ohio struck a deal to bring about sweeping reforms for how farm animals are handled.

### **ARE YOU OWED MONEY? OHIO'S UNCLAIMED FUND HITS \$2.6 BILLION**

Now that the holidays are over and the credit card bills are due, it might be a good time to check to see if the state of Ohio is hanging onto any money you forgot about.

### **ARE OHIO'S LICENSING RULES OUT OF WHACK?**

It takes nearly a year of training to become a licensed barber in Ohio, but one can become an advanced emergency medical technician — with the ability to administer narcotics — in less than six weeks.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **JOSH MANDEL DROPS OUT OF THE SENATE RACE**

Republican Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced Friday his withdrawal from the race for U.S. Senate.

### **JEFF JOHNSON, FORMER CLEVELAND COUNCILMAN, PLANS TO CHALLENGE OHIO SEN. SANDRA WILLIAMS IN MAY PRIMARY**

Jeff Johnson, just days after leaving office as a Cleveland council member following an unsuccessful run for mayor, says he plans to challenge Ohio Sen. Sandra Williams in the May Democratic primary.

### **WHAT ATTRIBUTES SHOULD A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE HAVE? IT'S NOT JUST THE "THREE R'S" ANYMORE**

What should a high school graduate look like in Ohio?

### **OHIO STILL HAS A POLITICAL GENDER GAP, BUT NOT IN THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR: A WOMAN'S PLACE**

Betty Sutton knows what it's like to be the only female politician in a room full of men.

### **VOTING IN OHIO MATTERS - LOOK AT THE 141 TIES AND ONE-VOTE RACES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS: THOMAS SUDDER**

Ohio's neighboring state once-removed, Virginia, showed last week why every vote counts in American elections.

## **THE ENQUIRER**

### **JOSH MANDEL'S SHOCKING EXIT HAS REPUBLICANS CONCERNED. AND THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO REPLACE HIM.**

Minutes after Republican U.S. Senate candidate Josh Mandel quit the race Friday afternoon, reality set in for Republicans.

## **THE BLADE**

(One of America's Great Newspapers)

### **REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS PUSH TO MAKE OHIO "RIGHT TO WORK"**

More than six years after voters resoundingly rejected similar proposals at the polls, a package of proposed constitutional amendments have been introduced to make Ohio the 29th state to enact "right to work."

### **OHIO VOTERS WILL HAVE MULTIPLE CANDIDATES TO CHOOSE FROM IN 2018**

Ohio faces a mixed bag of political races this year, with contests ranging from governor all the way down to local judgeships and leadership of the Lucas County Republican Party.

## **EDITORIAL: OPIOID AID FOR OHIO'S TOWNS**

Ohio, especially small-town Ohio, is now enduring a sociological and budgetary perfect storm.



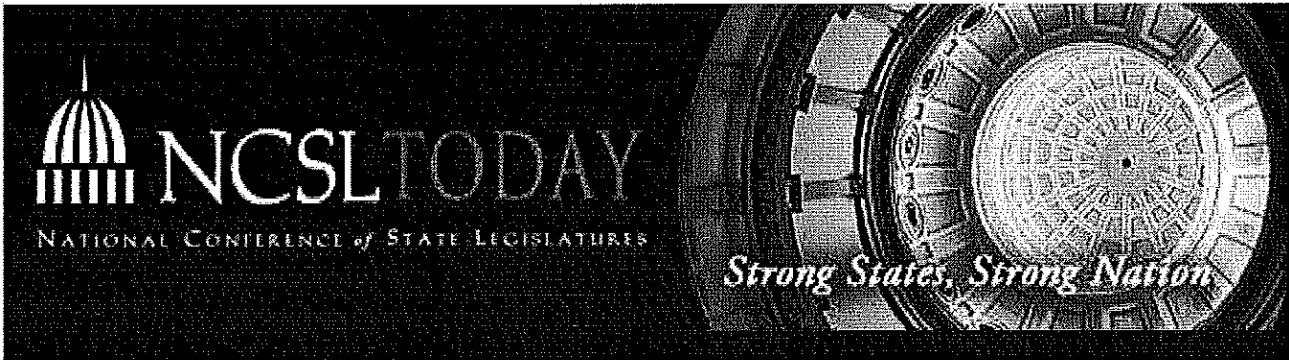
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**To:** Rep76

**Subject:** Federal shift on marijuana could imperil banking arrangements

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## TOP NEWS Jan. 8, 2018

### **Federal shift on marijuana could imperil banking arrangements**

*Stateline*

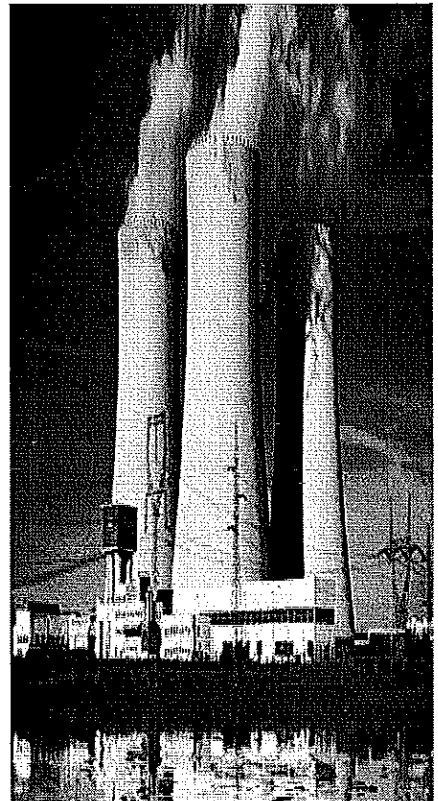
By forcing cannabis businesses to rely on cash, the move might make businesses, owners and employees vulnerable to theft and complicate state efforts to collect taxes on drug sales.

[NCSL 'deep dive' on marijuana.](#)

### **Oregonians aren't pumped about new law allowing self-service gas stations**

*National Public Radio*

Many Oregonians were outraged this week when a new law took effect allowing motorists in rural counties to pump their own gas, representing a shift in the state's decades-long history of requiring an attendant to pump gas for drivers.



## **Blue state officials plot response to GOP tax law**

*The Hill*

Elected officials in high-tax Democratic-leaning states are looking at creative ways to prevent the new tax law from raising their residents' bills. **NCSL's Max Behlke** quoted.

## **Trump administration rule paves way for association health plans**

*Kaiser Health News*

The Department of Labor on Thursday released proposed new rules that proponents say will make it easier for businesses to band together in "associations" to buy health insurance.

[NCSL resources on allowing purchases of out-of-state health insurance.](#)

## **Nebraska bill seeks to stop drone use to spy on people, harass cows**

*Associated Press*

Using a drone to spy on neighbors, drop drugs into prisons or harass cows could lead to criminal charges under a new bill Nebraska lawmakers will consider later this year. **NCSL data cited.**

[NCSL resources on current unmanned aircraft state law landscape.](#)

## **STD rates reach record highs**

*Governing*

The rise of sexually transmitted diseases is challenging public health departments.

## **The News Reactor: NCSL's nuclear newsletter**

The Nuclear Legislative Working Group traveled to San Antonio for its fall meeting, where members also took part in the U.S. Department of Energy's annual Intergovernmental Groups Meeting.



## **Friday webinar: Federal tax reform and the effect on states**

**States experience slow, steady rebound in revenues**

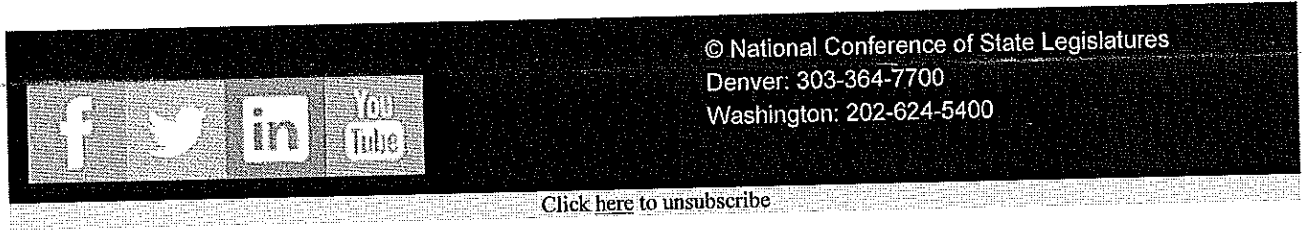
**2018 state legislative session calendar**



## **First elections of the new years: primaries**

Have you noticed all the new year stories about the midterm elections? Here's what Governing magazine, Politico and the Wall Street Journal have to say. They focus on what's likely to happen in

November 2018. They may be  
jumping the gun.



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## NEWS

Dennis Kucinich files paperwork to run for Ohio governor (Associated Press, 1/9/2018)

Lawmaker touts life change since his impaired driving arrest (Associated Press, 1/9/2018)

Ohio bans sale of dozens of invasive plants under new rules (Associated Press, 1/9/2018)

Dennis Kucinich to run for Ohio governor (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/9/2018)

Mandel replacers: Latest update on who's in, out (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/9/2018)

**Proposed Ohio law would prevent forced nurse overtime (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/9/2018)**

**Dennis Kucinich files paperwork for potential gubernatorial run (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/9/2018)**

**Former Cleveland Councilman TJ Dow may seek Ohio House of Representatives seat (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/9/2018)**

**Ohio still has a political gender gap, but not in the race for governor: A Woman's Place (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/9/2018)**

**Dennis Kucinich will join Ohio governor's race next week (Columbus Dispatch, 1/9/2018)**

**If Trump says to jump, Renacci will run for Senate instead of governor (Columbus Dispatch, 1/9/2018)**

**Justice O'Neill to announce running mate Tuesday in governor's race (Columbus Dispatch, 1/9/2018)**

**Ohio sued over racial quota on marijuana growing licenses (Columbus Dispatch, 1/9/2018)**

**10 Ohio professions that require licensing: Are they needed? (Dayton Daily News, 1/9/2018)**

**Democratic governor candidate Bill O'Neill to announce running mate (Dayton Daily News, 1/9/2018)**

**Group pushing ballot measure to increase regulation of puppy mills (Dayton Daily News, 1/9/2018)**

**If Trump asks, Renacci may run for Ohio's U.S. Senate seat (Dayton Daily News, 1/9/2018)**

**Gibbons trying to nail down front-runner status in GOP primary for U.S. Senate (Toledo Blade, 1/9/2018)**

**Republican lawmakers push to make Ohio "right to work" (Toledo Blade, 1/9/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

**Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: To build a better state report card (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/9/2018)**

**Time for the people of Ohio to decide on right-to-work law (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/9/2018)**

**Infrastructure ought to be next (Toledo Blade, 1/9/2018)**

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**From:** Ohio House Republican Communications  
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**Subject:** GOP Week in Review 12/31/17 - 1/7/18



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Majority Communications Department*

# GOP Week in Review

12/31/17 – 1/7/18

**WKSU: Ohio's Year in Review 2017: Changes to education policy**

"Looking back, basically a time of transition and a time of starting to listen to what's going on in the field and starting to implement common-sense reforms as opposed to just mandates that people can't necessarily comply with," Brenner said.

**Sandusky Register: Busy year for Shores & Islands**

In April we were proud to provide support to the governor's office, city of Sandusky, Cedar Point, state Sen. Randy Gardner, state Rep. Steve Arndt, TourismOhio and others in hosting the governor's State of the State address at the Sandusky State Theatre.

**The Advertiser-Tribune: SRPC, elections board ready to go**

Reineke presented an Ohio flag and a U.S. flag that were flown over the state capitol building Dec. 19 as a gift to the elections panel. "I'm very happy to be here," he said. "We've all got to keep working together to make great things happen."

**WOSU: Ohio lawmaker pushes for harsher penalties for parolees who fail drug tests**

Republican state Rep. Niraj Antani, the bill's sponsor, wants to create more access to treatment facilities and says jails should not be used as detox centers. "But until that time, jail is simply the best place for someone to detox and to be safely placed if they are (using) heroin and fentanyl - until we can figure out something else for them," Antani said.

**Mansfield News Journal: Community honors law enforcement with 'Spread the Light'**

The evening ended with state Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Ontario, counting down to officers switching on the lights and sirens in more than a dozen police vehicles to officially "spread the light" and start the week.

**Associated Press: Proposed Ohio law would prevent forced nurse overtime**

State Rep. Robert Sprague, a Findlay Republican, said he's concerned that exhausted nurses working long hours can lead to preventable medical errors. "It's a recipe for problems," Sprague told The Dayton Daily News.

**Findlay Courier: Sprague bill would ban forced nurse OT**

A bill introduced in the Ohio House by state Rep. Robert Sprague, R-Findlay, would prohibit hospitals from requiring a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of employment.

**Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Buckeye Pathway guides policy**

This member-driven document outlines our priorities and serves as a roadmap to three objectives: improve Ohio's economic environment, enhance opportunities for all Ohioans, and strengthen families and communities. Halfway through this term, we have approved more than 30 bills that align with these principles.

**Toledo Blade: Republican lawmakers push to make Ohio "right to work"**

The resolutions are sponsored by state Rep. John Becker (R., Cincinnati) and state Rep. Craig Riedel (R., Defiance). ... "It's not so much that I'm opposed to unions," Mr. Riedel said. "I believe strongly that employees ought not to be required to pay fair-share fees if they choose not to join that union. If that individual chooses not to be a part of that union, they're on their own. They would not get any representation whatsoever by that collective-bargaining agreement."

**Your News Now: HB 336 plans to help Ohioans with suspended licenses**

"This would help reduce the number of suspensions the bureau has to keep track of, it would also provide an incentive for a person to get insurance, get their license reinstated, and be able, if you're not able now to find a job because of lack of transportation, to be able to do that," said Rep. Bob Cupp, 4th District Rep for the State of Ohio.



**From:** Gongwer News Service

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018 7:11 PM

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**Attachments:** Jan10.htm; Jan10House.htm; Jan10Senate.htm; 180110dayplan.htm

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## OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

**Republicans Reveal Redistricting Plan Outline, Prompting Immediate Opposition**

**Labor, Worker Advocacy Groups Urge Lawmakers To Reduce Benefit Cuts In Unemployment Proposal**

**Renacci To Announce U.S. Senate Run**

**Sponsors: Body Camera Bill Would Clarify Records Law**

**Bill To Regulate Disposal Of Abortion Remains Clears Committee**

**Secretary Of State Candidates Detail Priorities At Election Officials  
Conference**

**Hoops, McClain Chosen To Fill Two Vacant House GOP Seats**

**Meetings Continue On Energy Standards Bill In Advance Of Possible  
January Vote**

**Cordray, Taylor Make Running Mate Choices Official**

**Business Groups Tout Benefits Of Cybersecurity Bill**

**Brown Pushes Bridge Funding Proposal As White House Preps  
Transportation Plan**

**Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Supplemental Event Planner**

**Senate Committee Hearings**

**Government Oversight & Reform**

**Energy & Natural Resources**

**Public Utilities**

**House Committee Hearings**

**Government Accountability & Oversight**

## **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**House**

Senate

## CALENDARS

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### Day Planner

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**Volume #87, Report #7 -- Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

## **Republicans Reveal Redistricting Plan Outline, Prompting Immediate Opposition**

Republicans on Wednesday unveiled their initial proposal to revamp the congressional map-making process, but Democrats and a coalition of groups behind a competing ballot issue aren't buying it.

The apparent disagreement over the majority party's approach puts more heat on policymakers facing a fast-approaching deadline to make the May 8 ballot.

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), one of two Republican members of the congressional redistricting working group, told members of Senate and House government oversight committees that a joint resolution will likely need to clear the upper chamber by Jan. 24, followed by passage in the House by Feb. 7. (Huffman presentation)

Although the four-member working group has yet to introduce a measure, Sen. Huffman said the proposal will likely combine legislative authority over redistricting with elements of the 2015 issue on legislative redistricting. Simply put, if lawmakers couldn't create an adequate map, the process would be kicked to the bipartisan Redistricting Commission to finish the job.

But members and allies of the Fair Districts=Fair Elections campaign, which is pushing its own redistricting ballot issue for November, say the proposal would actually make things worse for the state. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 3, 2017)

"This is not reform, it is a Trojan Horse," said Richard Gunther, an Ohio State University professor emeritus who has worked with Fair Districts and was heavily involved in 2015's Issue 1.

"It looks like a gift, but it smuggles in all kinds of dangerous threats to fairness and democracy itself," Mr. Gunther said of the proposal. "This is a cynical effort by a party to use its supermajorities in the legislature to perpetuate its dominate of our congressional delegation for at least another decade."

Asked whether he would move forward with the proposal absent Democratic backing, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said in an interview he expects the resolution to be bipartisan based on the discussions he's had with minority party lawmakers.

Sen. Huffman and the "cohorts he's been working with on both sides of the aisle have come up with a pretty reasonable plan," he said. Sen. Huffman, a key architect of the legislative redistricting changes, did a good job of explaining Wednesday how the latest version addresses concerns raised about prior GOP proposals, he added.

"I think it's a reasonable process, I think it's a fair process," Sen. Obhof said. "If there's a need to do any additional work to it, we have time to do that, but I'm also not at all interested in what party leaders think about the political advantage that they may or may not get from this."

Democratic members of the working group - Rep. Jack Cera of Bellaire and Sen. Vernon Sykes of Akron - weren't as emphatic in their disapproval as Mr. Gunther as they're planning to participate in further negotiations. But they made it clear they too aren't sold on the plan.

They questioned whether the proposal goes far enough in ensuring bipartisanship and think the timeline Republicans are considering may be too ambitious. Sen. Sykes and Rep. Cera did not take part in the committee presentations - a fact Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) called "noticeable."

Sen. Sykes said there are two main points of contention with the plan: the lack of bipartisanship in the process itself and the ability to gerrymander given the current criteria used to draw districts. "The plan that they are offering a skeleton of so far doesn't offer relief for either of those," he said.

Given the odds that Ohio will lose a congressional seat in the next Census round, Sen. Sykes said, "Our mapmakers looked at it and it seems (Republicans) will still be able to configure 12 out of 15 districts for the majority party and that is the main issue we're trying to address: the ability to gerrymander."

Both Democrats said they remain open for negotiation and that talks will continue among the working group, but added they have yet to see the draft of Republicans' plan. "The devil's in the details," Rep. Cera said.

**The Plan:** Under the proposal, the General Assembly would get the first shot at drawing lines, with that map requiring a three-fifths vote including one-third of the minority party.

"What that means is there is going to be substantial influence by the minority party in how the map is drawn," Sen. Huffman said.

However, he said when presenting the plan to members of the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee that the level of support required from the minority party is not set in stone at this point.

If legislators can design a map that meets with bipartisan approval by Sept. 30 of the year the census data is made available, that becomes the map. If they can't, then the process would move to the redistricting commission created by Issue 1 - which includes the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, and members chosen by all four legislative caucus leaders.

A plan by the commission would have to be approved by Oct. 15. Similar to Issue 1, a map that receives the support of two members of the minority party on the commission

would be good for 10 years. A map that does not receive support from two minority members would only be good for four years.

If a four-year map is produced, the General Assembly would then get a chance to vote on it in order to approve it for 10 years, Sen. Huffman said. If it passes both chambers, it becomes a 10-year map. If that doesn't happen by Oct. 30, it's a four-year map.

The senator said he expected both parties would have incentives to find a compromise on a 10-year map under that setup.

"Because of the uncertainty in control on either side of that, that's what drives people to make a compromise," he said. "That's how deals are made. People are worried about the future."

But Mr. Gunther doubts there would be much incentive on the part of the majority. He likened that provision to an "escape hatch" that undermines the entire proposal by enabling lawmakers to effectively approve a 10-year partisan map.

"The incentives for bipartisanship included in the previous two stages would be eliminated, and partisan gerrymandering would continue," Mr. Gunther said.

The proposal is also likely to include a set of parameters designed to keep districts compact and keep communities together. Those include rules against splitting most counties more than once and prohibitions against dividing a congressional district within a county. The rules would also require mapmakers to try to ensure that each congressional district includes at least one full county.

Sen. Huffman said the rules must provide mapmakers with some flexibility. "The more you limit what the line drawers can do the more likelihood you are going to have a map that doesn't comply with the Ohio Constitution," he said.

Mr. Gunther said the guidelines included in Sen. Huffman's presentation "are largely cosmetic and would be completely incapable of preventing even the most egregious partisan gerrymandering."

He agreed with Democrats who said simulations indicate it would be possible under the plan to create a map with 12 Republicans and three Democrats using the next round of Census data.

"They do impose some limits on how many times small counties - 78 out of 88 - could be split, but at present there are no limits on splitting large counties where most of the state's Democratic voters reside," Mr. Gunther said. "This provides a powerful incentive for gerrymandering by 'cracking' these urban centers."

**The Timeline:** Asked by Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) about the rush to get the proposal in front of voters in May during a lower turnout election, Sen. Huffman said to

place the measure on the ballot in November would likely require the General Assembly to act in July, and corraling members in the summer months can be difficult.

Sen. Skindell also raised concern about largely removing the governor from the process and taking away the public's ability to referendum the map by approving it as a resolution.

Rep. Cera said negotiations on the proposal should last as long as it takes to reach an agreeable proposal.

"If we're really serious about this, let's continue to talk and negotiate and come up with something we believe is a better approach that eliminates gerrymandering," Rep. Cera said. "Then it can go on the ballot in November. There's no magic to going on the ballot in May other than they want to beat the coalition to the ballot."

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said he expects to have a hearing on a bill next week. Public feedback would presumably be gathered via the committee process as the resolutions advance through committees.

Meanwhile, the Fair Districts coalition is redoubling its efforts after seeing Sen. Huffman's proposal. The coalition had gathered more than 188,000 signatures as of Dec. 20 and had reached the minimum number of signatures needed in 27 of 44 counties.

Hours after the presentations, the coalition emailed supporters urging them to contact Sen. Huffman and Rep. Schuring to voice their opposition on a plan that would "institutionalize gerrymandering."

Mr. Gunther said it's not beyond possibility that lawmakers will rally and salvage the plan in a bipartisan fashion.

"But the current proposal contains so many dirty tricks designed to confuse the voters that the Fair Districts coalition sees no alternative at present to redoubling our efforts to place on the November ballot an initiative proposal that will create a level playing field for both parties and restore the quality of democracy in Ohio," he said.

**Obhof Disappointed:** The Senate president, who has insisted that the legislature maintain a key role in the process, expressed disappointment over the statements from critics, some of whom he had met with privately before the unveiling of the concepts.

"I was a little surprised and frankly disappointed with some people's reactions compared to prior conversations that I've personally had with them, but I think we'll all end up being able to work together," he said. "It's not about the legislature versus some other group trying to gather signatures. It's about making sure we end up with a process that we think is good for the state of Ohio."

He wasn't surprised at the immediate salvo from Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper, who stated on Twitter of the debate: "Gerrymandered statehouse pols desperate to hold onto their power to gerrymander...."

The ODP party chairman also responded to another ProgressOhio tweet that cited skepticism from Mr. Gunther.

"He's right. They're cynically trying to harness the grassroots energy and national momentum behind ENDING gerrymandering to convince people to support something that would lock gerrymandering into Ohio's Constitution," Mr. Pepper stated on Twitter.

Sen. Obhof said of Mr. Pepper's position, "I'm not surprised by that - that's their job. I don't think ODP wants a fair process."

"If someone had a pre-prepared complaint about this this morning, that suggests to me they were more interested in playing partisan politics than they were in listening to the ideas," he added.

Asked about prior feedback from the state's congressional delegation, the Senate president said, "I've had some conversations with people about what they'd like to see, but I don't think that's been a prime motivator for us. I'm less interested in what this means for who is or who isn't in Congress in 2022 or 2024 than I am - and I think all of us are - in making sure we have a fair process that works for the people of Ohio."

Ohio's debate is ensuing in the wake of a federal district court ruling that blocked North Carolina's districts for being too politically motivated.

Sen. Obhof said it remains to be seen whether that holds up in the U.S. Supreme Court, but if it does the decision supports the Ohio GOP's approach - that the plans should not be based on political considerations such as "representational fairness." Instead, the underlying approach should follow the "one-person, one vote" standard and not allow for relatively sizeable variations in the number of citizens drawn into each district, he said.

### **Labor, Worker Advocacy Groups Urge Lawmakers To Reduce Benefit Cuts In Unemployment Proposal**

Groups representing workers asked lawmakers Wednesday to focus more on the taxation and revenue side of the state's unemployment compensation issue than on cutting benefits.

The hearing in the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee marked a rare moment of public opposition to the current proposal (HB 382 and HJR 4) to overhaul the unemployment insurance system.

Business groups have criticized the plan for not being aggressive enough in terms of cuts to benefits, instead favoring previous legislative proposals that drew even more ire from labor groups. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 22, 2017)



Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, testified in opposition. While he praised sponsor Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) for seeking common ground, he said a fair solution would address the lack of revenue, not the benefits.

Ohio employer taxes have been below the national average for 19 of the last 21 years, and the taxable wage base of \$9,500 is below the national average of \$13,782, he said. Meanwhile, the average benefit of \$359 per week was in line with the national average of \$259 per week, while Ohio claimants draw benefits for a shorter time than the national average.

"While House Bill 382 is an improvement over previous proposals, it does not satisfy our standard for worker well-being, economic stability or certainty of administrative outcomes," he said.

"Benefit costs are not the driver of the fund's insolvency, and these cuts limit the purchasing power of laid-off individuals at a time they can least afford," he added.

He also voiced concerns with the proposed employee contribution, including how it would work and what revenue is expected from it.

Graham Bowen, an attorney with the Ohio Poverty Law Center, outlined four areas of concern. One of those - eligibility criteria - would prevent those who work less than 30 hours per week from being eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

"This legislation should be revised so that more low-wage workers obtain coverage from the unemployment system," he said. "We suggest that the monetary eligibility requirement should be changed so that a minimum wage worker who works at least 20 hours a week qualifies for unemployment benefits."

Mr. Bowen offered suggestions for the employee coinsurance, changing it to a system based on a certain percentage of wages and deducted starting for the first paycheck.

On benefit cuts and the taxable wage base, he said a 10-year freeze in benefits would harm workers as it does not allow increases with a rising cost of living. The increase of the taxable wage base to \$11,000, he said, is not sufficient to maintain solvency over time.

The reduction in benefit weeks would also hurt workers in areas of the state with higher unemployment rates or in areas where a major employer shuts down.

Hannah Halbert, a researcher at Policy Matters Ohio, said that while the bill is an improvement over previous efforts, the proposal isn't a 50/50 deal between employers and workers.

The main cause of the fund's insolvency, she said, is inadequate taxation, and the proposal does not go far enough to address that issue.

"The idea that benefits are somehow out of line or overly generous is just not accurate," she said.

Benefit costs as a share of wages, she said, have been below the national average for the last seven years, she said. The state also limits who is eligible to receive benefits more than most states.

Reducing the weeks people can receive unemployment compensation will also end mandatory work search activities and supports, pushing people out of the labor force, she said.

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future, said a long-term and balanced approach is needed to protect the state's workers.

"Ohio's work environment has changed dramatically over the last several decades, shifting toward a higher prevalence of low-wage, part-time and temporary jobs," she said. "Reform to the unemployment compensation system needs to address this changed work environment without reducing benefits available to the unemployed and underemployed or creating barriers to eligibility."

Ms. Hamler-Fugitt suggested the proposal include provisions to change eligibility standards ensuring minimum wage workers employed 20 hours per week are eligible for benefits. She also supported employee contributions.

Another suggestion was that the funding formula be changed so the minimum safe level and solvency is achieved well before 2030, she said. Part of that can be done by increasing the taxable wage base to the national average of \$13,782 and indexing it annually to reflect wages or prices.

### **Renacci To Announce U.S. Senate Run**

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci will end his campaign for governor and instead run for the U.S. Senate, a source with knowledge of the decision said Wednesday.

The Wadsworth Republican is expected to make the announcement Thursday.

Rep. Renacci began considering the switch after State Treasurer Josh Mandel, the front-runner in the Republican Senate primary, dropped out last week, citing a family health issue. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 8, 2018)

The source said Rep. Renacci met with political staff at the White House, who said he would likely be a strong Republican candidate to challenge incumbent U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) in November. Mr. Renacci, a businessman who previously loaned his gubernatorial campaign \$4 million, has been a strong supporter of President Donald Trump.

Cleveland businessman Mike Gibbons, previously a longshot for the GOP nomination, has been campaigning for several months for the post and has also pledged millions of his own campaign cash. However, other Republicans are also encouraging "Hillbilly Elegy" author J.D. Vance to run.

Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones said Wednesday he would not seek the nomination.

The congressman's departure from the race will leave Attorney General Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor in the Republican field for governor. Ms. Taylor announced her running mate Wednesday. (*See separate story*)

### **Sponsors: Body Camera Bill Would Clarify Records Law**

The sponsors of a bill clarifying whether police body camera footage is a public record said the latest attempt has broad support.

Sponsor Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said the bill (HB 425) is an improvement over his previous effort (HB585, 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly), which faced opposition from various groups. Among the key changes: the new version does not lay out a record retention schedule.

Rep. Antani said his bill would establish clarity in the public record law for body-worn police camera videos.

"While these cameras are important in providing transparency and accountability to all involved in a police encounter, they also raise important privacy concerns," he said. "These cameras will be going into places a police camera has never gone before, leaving open the question of whether they are a public record or not. It is the Wild West right now with regards to whether a police-worn body camera is a public record: some believe it is, some believe it is not."

The bill says that, in general, the video is a public record, but it also creates exceptions, Rep. Antani said. Exceptions include if the video is a confidential investigatory record, if it is in a private home or business, if it is a video of a victim of a sex crime or if it includes personal health care information.

"These exceptions were carefully crafted to protect the privacy of our citizens," he said. "This bill also acknowledges the transparency on both sides of the cameras these videos provide by stating that in general the videos are a public record."

Fellow sponsor Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) said the proposal will provide law enforcement agencies with the standards they need to be transparent.

"In short, this legislation is about balance - the right balance of transparency and privacy," he said.

The bill would exempt the deaths of a person, including officers and first responders, grievous bodily harm or acts of violence resulting in serious harm, Rep. Craig said. If the injury or death is caused by the officer, the footage is considered a public record.

People will also be able to file actions with the Ohio Supreme Court to release all or parts of the recording, and the court can decide if the recording outweighs privacy concerns.

"After many meetings with law enforcement, medical professionals, legal experts and good government groups, I am proud to report to the committee that I believe we found that exact balance of privacy protections and public transparency in House Bill 425," he said.

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said he had heard recommendations that the bill be expanded to include dashboard cameras.

The sensitive nature of body camera videos provides a compelling reason to limit the proposal to body cameras, Rep. Antani said. Dash cams and drones could be added in an amendment or a future bill.

Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) suggested placing the dispute resolution process in the Court of Claims instead of the Supreme Court.

"You can always end up going through the courts after the fact, but if you can do it cheaper, faster, better, I would suggest that," he said.

### **Bill To Regulate Disposal Of Abortion Remains Clears Committee**

Despite being warned that it could fail a constitutional challenge, GOP members of a Senate panel on Wednesday reported legislation dealing with the disposition of fetal remains from abortions.

The measure (SB 28) to require an abortion facility to only dispose of aborted remains through cremation or interment and grant the mother the right to determine the final disposition of remains was moved by the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee in a party-line vote.

Before advancing the bill, members of the committee adopted a substitute bill offered by sponsoring Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) clarifying that those charged with disposing of the remains are not required to obtain a death certificate or a burial permit.

An amendment offered by Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) that would prevent the state from using taxpayer dollars to defend the legislation in court was tabled in a party-line vote.

Ohio Right to Life cheered the panel's passage of the legislation.

"Human life is intrinsically valuable, and with this legislation, we recognize this fact by restoring some measure of dignity to aborted children, even in death," President Mike Gonidakis said.

Opponents of the bill said the state will likely find itself in court if the bill becomes law.

Jaime Miracle, deputy director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, said similar legislation has been passed in Texas and Indiana. In both cases, she said, courts have temporarily blocked the laws.

"This bill is just like all of the other abortion bans and other restrictions passed by and still being considered by this legislative body since 2011, it is just another sham, based on inaccurate information, being used to block access to safe, legal abortion care in our state," she said.

"And just like the Down syndrome abortion ban passed last month, and the multiple other bills still working their way through the legislature at this time, it is wildly unconstitutional and will result in the wasting of tens or even hundreds of thousands of tax dollars defending it against court challenges."

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) questioned if the remains from stillbirths and miscarriages are treated as the remains from surgical abortions would be under the bill.

Ms. Miracle said that under current law, all fetal remains are treated as medical waste.

"You would think that this would apply to all tissue of this type, not just that from a surgical abortion," she said.

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist of the ACLU of Ohio, called the measure "legislative harassment" designed to drive up the cost of abortions by requiring the provider to cover the cost of the cremation or interment of fetal remains. He said the bill contains other provisions meant to inconvenience providers.

"This is an increasingly popular tactic of a frustrated anti-choice movement that continued to experience defeat in courts across the country after passing blatantly unconstitutional law," Mr. Daniels said. "In their minds, if they continue to fail at outlawing abortion, then perhaps making it as difficult as possible for clinics and doctors to stay in business will accomplish many of the same goals."

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned whether amending the bill to ensure that all fetal tissue remains are treated the same would make the measure constitutional.

Mr. Daniels said it may strengthen the state's case. However, he said he still sees no compelling government interest in the bill.

Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Ohio, also provided written proponent testimony. Following the vote, she said in a statement that the measure is just another attempt to limit access to abortion.

But Josh Brown, legal counsel and director of policy for Citizens for Community Values, said the bill has the potential to reduce the psychological trauma of women who have an abortion and ensure that remains are treated humanely.

"Women already suffer greatly after an abortion has been performed on their baby," he said. "Women who already suffer from abortion will suffer more when they discover that the remains of their child were thrown in a landfill like common trash. Planned Parenthood itself has acknowledged that these babies' bodies should be disposed of with 'respect.' It is not respectful to the dignity of human life, nor respectful to the mothers of these children to dispose of these remains as inhumanely as trash."

### **Secretary Of State Candidates Detail Priorities At Election Officials Conference**

The candidates for secretary of state told county election officials Wednesday that if elected they'll strive to update poll books and protect the security of elections.

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) laid out their plans during the kickoff of the Ohio Election Officials Association Winter Conference in Columbus.

As a former election official, Rep. Clyde said she knows firsthand the inner workings of elections and what it takes behind the scenes to make them run smoothly.

It's her goal, she said, to make Ohio first in the nation for the number of registered voters, counted provisional ballots and voter turnout. Currently, the state is somewhere in the middle or bottom of states in those categories, she said.

"Higher turnout is a mark of people feeling hopeful and feeling like their voice matters, that's what I want for Ohio. And all of this is fixable. Ohio can be number one across the board," Rep. Clyde said.

She has sponsored legislation (HB 1488) to automatically register eligible Ohio voters, which she said could cut the number of provisional ballots in half and increase election participation.

Rep. Clyde said another priority is ensuring that cyber security policies are in place to protect ballots and voter information.

She announced that she'll soon be introducing a series of bills on that topic. They would establish a cyber security director and advisory council in the secretary of state's office and require counties to use voter-marked and voter-verified paper ballots, she said.

"There are simply too many ways to access computers and electronics even with our best efforts, even if they're not on the internet," Rep. Clyde said. "We can combine low-tech and high-tech for the safest most trustworthy elections."

She and Sen. LaRose both said they'll continue pushing for update technology in the form of voting machines.

Sen. LaRose has introduced legislation (SB 135) that would fund the new machines, which he said he'd like to see in place for 2019.

He also touted a handful of other bills he's sponsored regarding elections, including those to eliminate uncontested elections (SB 10), allow local candidates to file electronic campaign finance reports (SB 44), and prohibit schools that serve as polling places to hold classes on election days (SB 149).

Sen. LaRose said he's also proud of previous legislation that enacted online voter registration and provided funding for electronic poll books.

"It is easier to vote now and more convenient to vote than it's ever been in our state's history. That is something worth celebrating," he told conference attendees. "You are the men and women on the front lines that have made that happen. This is a story that should be told more often. We should be speaking to our young people about the great strides that we've made as a nation and as a state in making sure that every eligible person is able to cast their ballot."

His experiences in the military are why he places such importance on the election process, Sen. LaRose said. He watched as voters proudly cast ballots in Middle Eastern countries when their lives were threatened for doing so.

As he's worked to move forward legislation aimed at improving that process, he's worked closely with election officials, he said. He plans to continue doing that if he's elected.

"The elections are conducted at the county level, that's where the work is done. That's where a majority of the decisions are made," Sen. LaRose said. "The secretary of state functions as a partnership with those county boards of elections and so if I have the distinct honor of serving as Ohio's next secretary of state, I would not view myself as anyone's boss."

While the candidates agree on a majority of issues, they offered differing takes on the voter case currently being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rep. Clyde said she would eliminate current practices of removing voters off rolls while Sen. LaRose said he would work toward a solution that ensures the state has accurate rolls.

**Hoops, McClain Chosen To Fill Two Vacant House GOP Seats**

House Republican screening panels on Wednesday selected a former member and a former member's son to fill two vacant seats in the chamber.

Pending approval from the full caucus next week, Jim Hoops, who served in the House from 1999-2006, will be seated to represent the 81<sup>st</sup> District, which was left open when Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) was appointed to the Senate.

Riordan McClain, son of former Rep. Jeff McClain, was tabbed to replace Wes Goodman in the 87<sup>th</sup> District in the seat previously held by his father. Among others, he beat out former Rep. Steve Reinhard for the appointment.

Mr. Reinhard was among 13 other hopefuls that had applied for one of the two seats. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 19, 2017)

Mr. Hoops, of Napoleon, is currently associate vice president for Strategic Initiatives at Northwest State Community College. He also previously served as Henry County auditor.

Mr. McClain, of Upper Sandusky, is director of Finance and Customer Service at Doc Investments LLC. He holds degrees from Bluffton University and the University of Findlay.

"I want to commend all of the very impressive and qualified individuals who took the time to apply and interview for these two House seats," said Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), who led both screening committees. "After careful deliberation and thorough review, the screening panels have unanimously selected two applicants who we believe have the necessary experience, knowledge and leadership skills to fill these vacancies."

Both of the vacancies stem from lawmaker resignations tied to inappropriate behavior. Mr. Goodman resigned after being confronted about activities that occurred in his Capitol Square office. The Senate seat came open when Cliff Hite quit amidst allegations of sexual harassment.

The two new lawmakers are expected to be sworn in during the House's next voting session on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

### **Meetings Continue On Energy Standards Bill In Advance Of Possible January Vote**

Senators are still discussing the timeline for moving a bill to render the state's renewable energy standards voluntary even as interested parties remain divided on the issue.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) has said in recent weeks he's hoping for a Senate vote this month.



Asked about that possibility after the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee's seventh hearing on the bill, Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) said discussions with interested parties - including the Kasich administration - are ongoing.

"I don't want to tell you it's not (on track)," Sen. Balderson said. "We're trying to see if we can come together, have another couple of meetings. We're going to follow the leadership."

The bill (HB 114) as it stands would render the standards voluntary and would lower cumulative energy efficiency standards from 22% to 17% by 2027. Supporters say it would enable the free market to drive those investment decisions while critics say it will steer business away from the state.

Opponents and proponents again turned out in numbers to voice their thoughts in person and in written comments during a hearing on Wednesday.

Michael Cope, interim president of the Ohio Coal Association, said the group continues to support the bill and "believes in the wisdom of the free market and support returning energy policy in Ohio to those principles."

He said he's aware of senators' desire to amend the bill further and that the OCA stands ready to assist in reaching a "positive result that protects Ohio's jobs and ensures your constituents have access to affordable and reliable energy."

Rob Kelter of the Environmental Law & Policy Center came to the standards' defense.

"The bottom line here is that we should make sure that we don't pass legislation that raises customers' bills by lowering the efficiency standards," Mr. Kelter said. Regarding renewable energy, he said the targets as they stand are "easily achievable and a smart hedge."

"As the world moves toward a clean energy economy, companies like Amazon and Google demand that electricity suppliers move toward renewable energy and Ohio should continue moving forward on renewables to keep up with these markets," he said.

Zachary Frymier, director of energy and environmental policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said the standards are already costing customers and businesses. Customers have shelled out more than \$1 billion to comply since the energy efficiency standards were implemented, he said, and businesses are "burdened by increasingly costly artificial additions to their electricity bills."

But Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) pointed to studies estimating consumers save \$5.6 billion because of those programs. "I think that's pretty good and I think the energy efficiency program that was adopted and is now in place is a great savings for consumers," he said.

Mr. Frymier said there are clearly benefits in investing in efficiency measures but that, "We believe the best way to allow that to continue is to allow the free market to drive their efficiency spending."

Christopher Allwein, executive director of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, argued the efficiency standards should be continued. He particularly praised weatherization programs, which he said can reduce energy usage between 15-40%.

"Depending on the weatherization measure, the savings will endure for more than 20 years," he said. "These measures reduce energy usage, reduce a customer's energy bill, provide a more comfortable dwelling space, conserve resources, reduce pollution and provide system benefits to both gas and electric distribution infrastructure."

Buckeye Institute Research Fellow Greg Lawson and Industrial Energy Users-Ohio counsel Sam Randazzo also reiterated their groups' positions.

For full testimony visit the committee's website under Jan. 10.

### **Cordray, Taylor Make Running Mate Choices Official**

Two gubernatorial hopefuls on Wednesday announced running mates that added gender and regional diversity to their tickets.

As expected, Democrat Richard Cordray tabbed Betty Sutton as his lieutenant governor hopeful during a news conference in Akron.

Also following earlier indications, Republican Mary Taylor named Nathan Estruth to run on her ticket at an event in Cincinnati.

Mr. Cordray, a Central Ohio resident, and Ms. Sutton, who resides in Copley, both served in the Obama Administration and both have experience in Ohio elected offices. Ms. Sutton's resume includes stints in the U.S. and Ohio Houses, and as administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

"I'm honored to join forces with Betty to wage this campaign, both because of the vision we share to make Ohio fairer, and because of her track record of delivering results for Ohioans and their families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement.

"As a lawyer fighting for fair treatment and wages for workers, and as a public servant who has worked at the local, state, and federal level, Betty's career has been focused on the 'kitchen table' issues that are at the core of my campaign. Just as importantly, Betty knows how to take on the tough political fights and win, and will be a formidable partner in the coming months."

Ms. Sutton recounted her family's background in asserting that the Democrats would improve conditions for Ohio workers.

"My mom worked at the library and my dad was a boilermaker, and both worked hard to put food on the table and take care of our family. Like Rich, I'm concerned that the opportunities we had have slipped out of reach for far too many of our fellow Ohioans," she said. "I'm excited to join with Rich and work on the issues that matter the most to Ohioans, like improving education, supporting local communities, and working together to raise wages and bring down the cost of housing, healthcare, and college."

The development means that Ms. Sutton will bring her own gubernatorial campaign to an end.

The running mate pick of Ms. Taylor, of Green, was president and CEO of Hamilton-based materials company iMFLUX and a political activist, having served seven years on the board of directors of the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian group. Mr. Estruth, a former Procter & Gamble executive, left his position with iMFLUX to join the campaign, Ms. Taylor said.

"Nathan is a political outsider who shares my conservative values, cares about helping create new jobs for Ohio, and is unafraid of challenging the status quo," Ms. Taylor said in a statement. "Nathan has over 26 years of experience creating jobs. He is a problem-solver and that is exactly what we need in Columbus. Our ticket is a clear contrast to the establishment career politician marriage between Mike DeWine and Jon Husted."

Former Rep. Seth Morgan introduced Mr. Estruth at the event, likening the duo to a "winning recipe" that includes a "CPA, a business leader, a strategist, and a policy expert...."

The campaign said Lt. Gov. Taylor picked the City Gospel Mission to make the announcement to highlight the work the group is doing to fight addiction and the opiate crisis.

The Wednesday developments follow three other recent running mate announcements by gubernatorial hopefuls. Republican Attorney General Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Jon Husted joined forces last month, and more recently Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) tabbed Stephanie Dodd and Democratic Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill named Chantelle Lewis to join their respective races.

**Reaction:** Sen. Schiavoni and Ms. Dodd released a joint statement regarding Mr. Cordray's announcement.

"The Cordray-Sutton combination makes sense, just like DeWine-Husted did. They're all following the same political playbook. But this year, voters are looking for something different," they stated.

"Democrats need a team that can excite young people, appeal to voters lost in 2016, and unite our party and our state moving forward. Ohio's future requires a new generation of leadership."

Connie Pillich, also a Democratic candidate for governor, praised the choice of Ms. Sutton in a news release.

"Congresswoman Betty Sutton is a trailblazer who has served as an example for women everywhere and as a fighter for working Ohioans," she said. "I believe her candidacy was a positive force in this campaign and I am sorry that she feels the need to bow out of the race. I've enjoyed sharing the debate stage with her and wish Congresswoman Sutton nothing but the best."

### **Business Groups Tout Benefits Of Cybersecurity Bill**

Proponents of a bill designed to provide protections for companies that take steps to protect consumer information said Wednesday that it will improve the state's business climate.

The measure (SB 220) creates an affirmative defense, in the event of a data breach, for businesses that voluntarily improve cybersecurity.

Don Boyd, director of labor and legal affairs at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, told members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee the measure builds on the work already done to improve the business climate in Ohio.

The legislation, he said, "lays out the standards under which a business may utilize the safe harbor. The business's cybersecurity program must protect the security and confidentiality of consumers' personal information, protect against any anticipated threats or hazards to personal information, and protect against unauthorized access of personal information that is likely to result in material risk of identity fraud."

Allen Perk, owner of XLN SYSTEMS and a member of the National Federation of Independent Business-Ohio, said many small businesses are not aware of the cyber threats they face.

"Keep in mind that these small businesses are led by one, maybe two people, and they are more concerned with finding their next project or for that matter, making their next payroll, that they simply do not have time to even think about technology threats or cyber criminals," he said.

Tim Opsitnick, executive vice president and general counsel at Technology Concepts & Design, testified on behalf of the Greater Cleveland Partnership. He told the panel that cybersecurity is increasingly a challenge for businesses of all sizes.

"As you know, the use of technology to conduct business efficiently in the marketplace is practically unavoidable. Unfortunately, the technology we use daily is vulnerable and can be hacked," he said. "Accordingly, the consequences can have a rippling effect and can be devastating for a business of any size, in any industry - particularly for small businesses. SB220 is a sound initiative that encourages more businesses to properly protect their business ventures, their workforce, and those with whom they do business."

The legislation is a product of the Attorney General Mike DeWine's CyberOhio initiative. Kim Murnieks, COO at the office, said the so-called Data Protection Act is the first legislative initiative to come out of the Cybersecurity Advisory Board.

"To receive the benefit of the Act, a business must implement and maintain a comprehensive cybersecurity program," she said. "To provide guidance to businesses, the Act lists eight different industry recognized cybersecurity frameworks that a business can follow when creating its own cybersecurity program. Businesses are only required to incorporate one of the frameworks into the business' cybersecurity program. Further, businesses are free to choose whichever framework best fits their needs."

Ms. Murnieks also emphasized that the bill does not serve as "an absolute shield for businesses."

"It is our hope that it will provide guidance and structure to the courts when trying to resolve disputes that involve data breaches," she said.

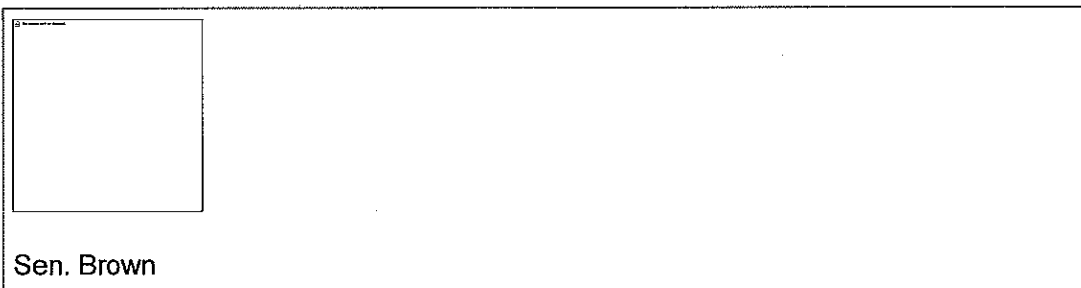
The panel also received written proponent testimony from representatives of NFIB-Ohio, Lunarline and Nationwide.

### **Brown Pushes Bridge Funding Proposal As White House Preps Transportation Plan**

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown is behind a bill that would funnel federal dollars toward some of the 6,400 bridges in the state that need replaced or repaired.

The Cleveland Democrat recently introduced the so-called Bridge Investment Act, which would allocate \$75 billion for bridge repairs and upgrades throughout the country.

Bridge repairs needed nationally total \$123 billion - \$30 billion of which comes from Ohio bridges identified as being functionally obsolete or structurally deficient, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. (Ohio Bridge List)



Sen. Brown

"It's a disgrace that we've allowed the transportation system our parents and grandparents left us to fall into disrepair," Sen. Brown said in a conference call on Wednesday.

He said he sees the bill as an integral piece to a larger infrastructure proposal excepted from the Trump administration next month.

While campaigning, the president continually promised to introduce a \$1 trillion, 10-year infrastructure plan if he was elected.

"I've been clear since that this is an area where I hope we can work together," Sen. Brown said.

In addition to providing formula funding to states to spend on bridges, the bill will also require the use of American-made products - a tenet Sen. Brown said any larger infrastructure legislation should also include if it's going to receive his support.

"This bill needs to be part of any infrastructure conversation," he said. "We need to make sure any investment in American infrastructure supports American jobs."

He criticized current and former policies that have resulted in the use of cheaper, foreign-made steel.

The practice may be saving the nation on project spending in the short term, but it "is costing American jobs," Sen. Brown said. "That's bad policy."

"American tax dollars shouldn't be paying for Chinese steel," he added.

Pat Gallagher, sub-district director for United Steelworkers District 1 in Ohio, is supporting the legislation as well as pushing for future bills to include similar American-made language.

"Sixty-five percent of all the seamless pipe used in the state is imported," he said as an example. "We have mills on layoff and idle...in Lorain and in Youngstown that could be making this product."

The cost differential between American and Chinese steel varies depending on products, Mr. Gallagher said, but domestic steel is always of higher quality and results in jobs with living wages.

Both Sen. Brown and Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) have pushed for the use of American-made products when taxpayer dollars are involved.

Earlier this week, the lawmakers introduced bipartisan legislation that would establish an online hub where federal agencies would report the purchase of American-made goods as well as any waivers sought to buy products from other countries.

When the president's full infrastructure bill is unveiled, Sen. Brown said he's also hoping the funds come from a combination of local, state and federal sources, as it has in the past.

He said he wouldn't be in favor of additional tolling, which was part of last year's talks on the topic.

"This can't be sort of a phony public-private partnership bill where (it isn't) going to pay for bridges in small towns and ultimately is this going to be a bill with Trump tolls where the president is going to charge tolls on every road in the state and country. That's not how we've done transportation in this country," Sen. Brown said.

#### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Thursday, January 11**

Peace Officer Training Commission, 1650 State Route 56 SW, London, 10 a.m.

**Friday, January 12**

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m. (STEM Committee)

**Friday, January 19**

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m. (The Budget & Finance Committee will meet immediately after)

**Wednesday, January 24**

Arts Council, 33rd Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m. (The Finance Committee meets previously at 9:30 a.m. and the Executive Committee meets at noon or immediately following the board meeting.)

#### **Supplemental Event Planner**

**Friday, January 12**

News conference call on CHIP, 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, January 24**

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or [jgravalis@ohiodems.org](mailto:jgravalis@ohiodems.org))

**Thursday, January 25**

Ohio House Democratic Caucus fundraiser, The Boat House, 679 W. Spring St., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Special Guest Former Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander. Table: \$1500, Host: (includes 2 tickets) \$350, Individual: \$200 to Ohio House Democratic Caucus. RSVP with Amy Katrak at 614-420-1269 or [akatrak@ohiodems.org](mailto:akatrak@ohiodems.org))

**Tuesday, February 13**

Ohio House Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Rambling House Soda, 310 E. Hudson St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Friend: \$500, Guest: \$250, Individual \$50 to Ohio House Democratic Caucus. RSVP with Amy Katrak at 614-420-1269 or [akatrak@ohiodems.org](mailto:akatrak@ohiodems.org))

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## House Activity for Wednesday, January 10, 2018

### COMMITTEE HEARINGS

#### Government Accountability & Oversight

**HJR 4** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (**CONTINUED** (See separate story); 7th Hearing-All testimony)

**HJR 5** **BALLOT ISSUES** (Antani, N.) Proposing to amend Sections 1a, 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to modify the requirements for the initiative and referendum processes. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said the resolution would change the process for initiated constitutional amendments and statutes.

The resolution would increase the number of signatures needed for each by 25%, increase the vote total needed for passage to 60%, and ban the paying of petition gatherers.

The sponsor pointed to Issue 1 and Issue 2 in November's election, both backed by California-based groups.

"Ohio's initiative process is a progressive era reform, intended to empower the citizenry to go directly to the pass to pass a law or amendment if the General Assembly is derelict in our duty," he said. "It was not intended for out-of-state, well-funded special interests to come into our state and buy their way into the Constitution or Revised Code. Unfortunately, every single initiative in recent memory has been the latter. Our initiative process is broken. It is hurting the citizens of Ohio. It's time to fix this problem before it gets completely out of hand."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) asked the sponsor if he's researched the constitutionality of banning the payment of petition gatherers.

The sponsor said he included that provision to make a point. A substitute resolution will be introduced to remove that language, which would likely be unconstitutional under a past U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said initiatives are not all coming from outside groups, pointing to a redistricting proposal being circulated by the League of Women Voters. Initiatives are designed to be done by citizens, not by groups, the sponsor said.

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) asked how many other states have a 60% threshold. The sponsor said Florida and Colorado have the same policy.

**SB 10**      **PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.)** To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

Paul Adams, director of the Lorain County Board of Elections, said the bill would fix two election problems, including eliminating the requirement to hold a special congressional primary when only one candidate appears on the ballot.

The other issue stems from municipal primary elections. Boards can currently certify candidates to the general election even though only one candidate files, but can't do so if multiple candidates file but only one is certified.

"In short, the goal of SB10 is to save taxpayer dollars, and boards of election from unnecessary work and costs," he said. "It does so while protecting the right of citizens to vote in a primary or special congressional primary IF there is more than one candidate to choose from."

**Rep. Dave Greenspan** (R-Westlake) asked if the race would appear on a ballot if there were other issues appearing on the same ballot. Mr. Adams said that would be the case.

**Secretary of State Jon Husted** wrote in support, saying the bill would prevent future occurrences such as a special primary election to replace a candidate for the Eighth Congressional District in 2016 that cost the state more than \$340,000 even though only one name was on the ballot.

"Eliminating such elections would save considerable taxpayer money," he said.

**HB 342**      **TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.)** To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)**

The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill that Chairman **Rep. Louis Blessing** (R-Cincinnati) said would allow emergency or temporary levies to be placed on the August ballot, among other exceptions, and would require the millage to be listed based on \$100,000 of fair market value. **(Comp Doc)**

Union County Commissioner Gary Lee, representing the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, spoke in support of the bill, which would limit local tax-related proposals to primary and general elections.

Eliminating special August elections on tax issues would save local governments money and ensure proposals are put before the usually larger electorates in primary and general elections.

"We believe that the option of placing a tax issue before the voters twice a year in November and May provides ample opportunity for local governments to plan and conduct levy campaigns," he said. "We understand that placing issues before the voters in a special election in August may lead to reduced voter turnout, as voters do not expect to be going to the polls in August."

Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, wrote in opposition, saying the bill would eliminate a choice municipalities have in balancing their budgets.

"It is also important to note that special election ballots provide a key opportunity to adequately educate voters on a tax levy," he said. "When a levy is the sole issue on the ballot, it is easier to inform voters as to what the levy would actually accomplish. In a general or primary election, levies are overshadowed by the names on the ballot and can mean voters are making an uninformed decision on an important local matter."

**HB 382** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 7th Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 425** **BODY CAMERAS (Antani, N., Craig, H.)** To provide that specified portions of peace officers' body-worn camera recordings and the infrastructure record of a public school are not public records for purposes of the Public Records Law. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 430** **ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION (Schaffer, T.)** To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor **Rep. Tim Schaffer** (R-Lancaster) said the bill would reaffirm statute and practice on the collection of sales tax from oil and gas operations.

Since 1960, the Department of Taxation has determined that items used directly in the exploration of oil and gas are exempt from sales tax. ODOT has recently started auditing the industry and collecting sales tax differently.

The items now being taxed that have not been taxed historically include oil and water separators, brine disposal equipment and private roadways, he said

"House Bill 430 does not change Ohio statute on the way sales tax has traditionally been collected for the industry," he said. "This bill simply reaffirms what we've been doing for decades-it clarifies the Ohio Revised Code, as intended by the Ohio General Assembly, and the Ohio Administrative Code that these direct sales are treated as nontaxable. The purpose is not to expand the scope of the current exemptions or exclusions; rather it is to aggregate and clarify them."

**HB 451** **PUBLIC RECORDS (Retherford, W.)** To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

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## Senate Activity for Wednesday, January 10, 2018

### INTRODUCED

**SR 382** ■ **ALFALFA PRODUCTS** (LaRose, F.) To recognize the existence of two alfalfa products in light of the recent action of the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials.

### COMMITTEE HEARINGS

#### Government Oversight & Reform

**HB 122** ■ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** (Hambley, S., Rogers, J.) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Jason Warner, manager of government affairs at the Greater Ohio Policy Center, said the legislation is "an important vehicle in fostering thoughtful consideration and review of ways that cities, counties, townships and other public entities can best partner to economically compete from regional areas of strength and effectively address regional needs across Ohio."

However, he said the bill should be changed to expand ex-officio members to include representatives of a state-based advocacy group, a state-based foundation and a metropolitan planning organization.

"Greater Ohio believes these individuals would provide a unique perspective to the Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee," he said.

**SB 201** ■ **PRISON TERMS** (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (**CONTINUED**; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Niki Clum, legislative liaison for the Ohio Public Defender, told members of the panel that the legislation fails to strike the proper balance between keeping high-risk offenders behind bars and ensuring that rehabilitated inmates are released as early as possible.

She also said the legislation is not in line with the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, as some have claimed.

One Recodification Committee recommendation would require indefinite sentencing for all felony offenders. The bill only covers first, second and some third-degree felony offenses. "By only including some felony offenses, SB201 serves to further complicate Ohio's already overly convoluted sentencing structure," Ms. Clum said.

Ms. Clum also raised the prospect that the bill could lead to further prison overcrowding which sponsoring **Sen. Kevin Bacon** (R-Minerva Park) denied.

- SB 220** **CYBERSECURITY (Hackett, B., Bacon, K.)** To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 28** **ABORTION (Uecker, J.)** Regarding final disposition of fetal remains from surgical abortions. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**Subscriber's Note:** For full written testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 10. **Energy & Natural Resources**

- HB 114** **RENEWABLE ENERGY (Blessing, L.)** To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony)
- SB 236** **MINE COMMISSION (Huffman, M.)** To create the Affected Mine Commission, to require the Affected Mine Commission to hear appeals related to oil and gas operations and affected coal mines in lieu of the Reclamation Commission, and to define "affected mine" for purposes of the law. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**Sen. Matt Huffman** (R-Lima) said his legislation tackles a practical issue by preserving safety during oil and gas operations. The bill would create the Affected Mine Commission, a group to hear appeals and resolve disputes in lieu of the Reclamation Commission. Both **Sen. Bill Beagle** (R-Tipp City) and **Sen. Michael Skindell** (D-Lakewood) questioned how big the problem is that the legislation is designed to address. Sen. Huffman said the current process to resolve disputes over oil and gas drilling locations in the event of a nearby active mine is cumbersome.

"Some reasonable person may say there's no affected mine here but there's an objection," he said. "Then we have to go into that process which takes a long time. There needs to be clarity so we don't have this same argument over and over."

Regarding his approach, he said he will leave it up to industry groups to opine on the fairness of the bill, but added that consumers must have a voice in the process.

The commission would consist of two members of the Reclamation Commission, two members of the Oil and Gas Commission and one member appointed by the governor. The bill also defines "affected mine" as an above or below ground mine to which the following applies:

- The chief of the division of mineral resources management has issued a permit.
- The application for a permit has been filed for a well within the permitted limits of the coal mining operation.

-The operator has acquired the right to mine coal from the well location from 100% of coal owners.

-Active mining is occurring within 2,500 feet of and progressing toward the proposed well location.

"The purpose of this is clarity and predictability for the people who are affected by this," Sen. Huffman said.

**Sen. Frank Hoagland** (R-Adena) said the sponsor "hasn't quite hit the nail on the head yet" in terms of the bill's definition. "There's a lot of gray area in there and I'd like to see that cleaned up," he said. "I think we should be bringing the coal miners...into that committee and see what they have to say about it."

"In my mind, the folks that make the rules are the people in this body and the body on the other side - the House and the Senate," Sen. Huffman replied. But he ultimately agreed the definition could be improved.

Sen. Hoagland also voiced concern that the bill could get in the way of future oil and gas development and stressed that communication between the various industry groups is key.

**SB 238**      **WIND FARM SETBACKS** (**Dolan, M.**) Regarding wind turbine setbacks for wind farms of at least five megawatts. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said his bill is comparable to prior legislative efforts to rework wind turbine setbacks (**SB 188**).

But he said the measure is aesthetically different from its predecessor in that it would stress the existing local control communities have over approving wind projects.

An amendment was adopted to that effect. It specifically states county engineers' responsibility to make sure wind developers restore damaged roads or infrastructure to their condition prior to development. It also states police and fire personnel must be trained for emergencies stemming from wind farms.

But the sponsor said that nothing included in the amendment would add to the law. Instead, the language more clearly states existing precedent.

Sen. Dolan criticized the prior legislative process through which lawmakers without hearings amended the existing setbacks into legislation in what critics contend was the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Those 2008 setbacks, he said, have curbed wind development in northeast Ohio.

"We are preventing a business from growing and for Ohio to be a place for people to site their business, for people to make wind turbine projects, from people being able to create their own energy," Sen. Dolan said.

**Subscribers Note:** For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 10.

**Public Utilities**

**SB 155**      **SECURITY RESOURCES** (**Terhar, L., Peterson, B.**) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource. (**CONTINUED**; 7th Hearing-All testimony)

Several opponents submitted new testimony to the committee. Many of them sought to update their prior comments after lawmakers adopted a substitute bill in June that capped

cost increases, shortened the lifespan of the cost recovery program and other provisions.  
(See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 22, 2017)

Ned Hill, an economist at Ohio State University, deemed the bill "another attempt to subsidize uneconomic legacy" plants at the expense of ratepayers.

"It is a naked attempt to distort a regulated, competitive market for generating electricity that is working for Ohioans and their employers," Mr. Hill said. "This bill is yet another round in a regulatory and legislative game of whack-a-mole as IOUs seek public subsidies to offset losses generated by their (or an affiliate's) nuclear and coal-fired power plants."

Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) asked the witness why the bill is needed given that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio can already grant cost recovery to OVEC owners. The idea of shifting that role to the General Assembly, the senator said, "gives me pause."

"Doesn't give me pause at all," Mr. Hill replied. "It scares the bejeebers out of me."

But Sen. John Eklund (R-Charlton) asked how the markets are competitive when various participants are already subsidized. Mr. Hill said the cost structure of the market is influenced by public policy and subsidies including through the tax code.

"But once that energy is produced, given that plethora of operating costs, then it's a completely competitive market and the lowest market cost wins," he said. Enacting more subsidies on top of existing ones, he said, "is a road to subsidies with no end."

Kim Bojko, counsel for the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, said nothing in the substitute version quells the OMA's concerns. The cost caps - \$2.50 per month for residential customers and \$2,500 per month for other customers - would actually "magnify the negative impact to Ohio consumers," she said.

"The caps will create deferred costs that may accrue interest, which will cost Ohio's ratepayers exponentially more in the long run," she said. The legislation, she added, still "provides a subsidy for 'uneconomic generation,' provides a bailout of failing generation and bad business decisions, (and) fails to protect customers."

Ms. Bojko brought up the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent rejection of the Trump Administration's proposed plan to grant new support to aging plants. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 9, 2018)

Chairman Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) questioned the FERC ruling's implications for Ohio. Ms. Bojko said that through the decision the commission embraced competitive markets and "couldn't find a problem to fix."

"Until that actually occurs we don't need to move forward to find a solution," Ms. Bojko said, summarizing FERC's view. "What they did was they punted all of those questions and issues to the regional transmission organizations and made the point this is a regional issue. This isn't a state issue."

Sen. Eklund questioned why the OMA view subsidies for renewable energy differently than subsidies for OVEC plants. Ms. Bojko, responding, noted that OMA hasn't taken a stance on a bill (HB 114) to water down those standards.

"Subsidies to two generators are way different than subsidies to all companies or one sector," Ms. Bojko said. "We're talking about giving subsidies to two coal plants, not all coal plants. And one is located in Indiana."



The Ohio Consumers' Counsel, the Ohio Independent Power Producers and the Sierra Club also submitted written opponent testimony.

**Subscribers Note:** For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 10.

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## Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, January 11

### Legislative Committees

**Canceled:** Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m.

### Agency Calendar

Civil Rights Commission, Lobby Hearing Rm., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Peace Officer Training Commission, 1650 State Route 56 SW, London, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

### Event Planner

9th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Statehouse, Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) news conference on legislation aligning state prescription drugs and medical equipment pricing with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Ohio Lobbying Association Signature Series Luncheon featuring Jane Timken, Chairman, Ohio Republican Party, Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) fundraiser, Courtyard Marriott Downtown 100 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$200 to Citizens to Elect Kyle Koehler)

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## NEWS

**Loss of sponsor could close Ohio e-school with 12K students**  
(Associated Press, 1/12/2018)

**Ohio among states whose Amazon pitches aren't public** (Associated Press, 1/12/2018)

**Ohio GOP Rep. Jim Renacci bows out of governor's race to join U.S. Senate primary that Mandel left** (Associated Press, 1/12/2018)

**Democratic tickets shaking out in Ohio governor's race** (Athens Messenger, 1/12/2018)

**Democratic tickets shaking out in Ohio governor's race** (Athens Messenger, 1/12/2018)

**Ohio governor's race: Dayton Mayor Whaley out (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/12/2018)**

**Ohio Senate: GOP Rep. switches from governor' race (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/12/2018)**

**PX: Is Trump a winner or loser in Great Ohio Shakeout? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/12/2018)**

**Jim Renacci says White House 'guaranteed' Trump would help with Senate bid (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/12/2018)**

**Mike DeWine meets with Johnson and Johnson, Teva to discuss opioids suit settlement (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/12/2018)**

**A Renacci-Brown Senate race 'will assuredly be nasty' (Columbus Dispatch, 1/12/2018)**

**Democratic attorney general hopeful calls for accountability in ECOT scandal (Columbus Dispatch, 1/12/2018)**

**ECOT fighting to stay alive but options few (Columbus Dispatch, 1/12/2018)**

**Kucinich's candidacy may transform Ohio governor's race (Columbus Dispatch, 1/12/2018)**

**Residency issue, Trump criticisms may have sunk Vance's candidacy (Columbus Dispatch, 1/12/2018)**

**Dayton Mayor Whaley to drop out of governor's race (Dayton Daily News, 1/12/2018)**

**Ohio looks for ways to change how congressional districts are drawn (Dayton Daily News, 1/12/2018)**

**Ohio Republican Senate race battle of multimillionaires (Dayton Daily News, 1/12/2018)**

**Forced labor spotlighted at trafficking event (Toledo Blade, 1/12/2018)**

**GOP gubernatorial candidate Mary Taylor: Renacci departure focuses race (Toledo Blade, 1/12/2018)**

**Whaley to end Democratic run for governor (Toledo Blade, 1/12/2018)**

## **EDITORIALS**

**Get a shot against the flu's potentially lethal consequences for yourself and others: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/12/2018)**

**This is what people want (Toledo Blade, 1/12/2018)**

**Major moves made by candidates in the races for governor, Senate (Youngstown Vindicator, 1/12/2018)**

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## HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/12/2018

**AP** Associated Press

### **OHIO GOP REP. RENACCI JOINS SENATE RACE AGAINST DEMS' BROWN**

Citing White House encouragement, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci on Thursday jumped out of the Republican governor's race and into Ohio's U.S. Senate primary in an effort to unseat two-term Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown.

### **DEMOCRATIC TICKETS SHAKING OUT IN OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE**

As former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich prepared to enter the race for Ohio governor and another candidate appeared ready to bow out, the choices for Ohio Democrats this spring began to come into focus.

**The Columbus Dispatch**  
*Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

### **SCHOOL DISTRICTS BRACE FOR INFLUX OF ECOT STUDENTS**

What does it look like when thousands of students — roughly the enrollment of one of Ohio's largest school districts — suddenly lose their school?

### **A RENACCI-BROWN SENATE RACE 'WILL ASSUREDLY BE NASTY'**

Kyle Kondik offered few solid predictions on the dynamics of Jim Renacci dropping out of the Ohio governor's race Thursday to seek the U.S. Senate seat held by Sherrod Brown.

### **DEMOCRATIC ATTORNEY GENERAL HOPEFUL CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN ECOT SCANDAL**

Democratic Ohio attorney general candidate Steve Dettelbach is calling for students, families and taxpayers to be protected and for Ohio officials to be held accountable in the state's online charter school scandal.

### **KUCINICH'S CANDIDACY MAY TRANSFORM OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Dennis Kucinich's entry into the Ohio governor's race may transform the battle for the Democratic nomination, a political expert says.

### **DRUG-MAKERS OPEN TALKS WITH DeWINE ON OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

The office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine began discussions Wednesday in hopes of reaching a settlement with some of the drug manufacturers the state is suing over claims they irresponsibly promoted and sold addictive opioids.

### **ECOT FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE BUT OPTIONS FEW**

Heather Moran-Kuhling was crushed to hear her 3rd-grade son's school could close next week.

**Dayton Daily News**  
www.daytondailynews.com

### **OHIO REPUBLICAN SENATE RACE BATTLE OF MULTIMILLIONAIRES**

Ohio's U.S. Senate Republican primary now pits two multi-millionaires against each other, with both claiming the anti-establishment mantle.

### **OHIO LOOKS FOR WAYS TO CHANGE HOW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ARE DRAWN**

A Republican redistricting proposal drew a stiff rebuke from the groups gathering signatures for a proposed constitutional amendment in November, meaning Ohio could have separate ballot issues this year that change how congressional districts are drawn.

### **"HILLBILLY ELEGY" AUTHOR MULLS SENATE BID, BUT DOES HE LIVE IN OHIO?**

Even as Ohio advisers to "Hillbilly Elegy" author J.D. Vance say Vance is seriously considering launching a bid against Sen. Sherrod Brown for the U.S. Senate, Republicans privately are concerned that the author, who has never before held public office, may have problems that would prove disastrous to his bid.

### **DAYTON MAYOR WHALEY TO DROP OUT OF GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley today is expected to drop her campaign for Ohio governor and put her support behind fellow Democrat Richard Cordray and his running mate Betty Sutton.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **JIM RENACCI SAYS WHITE HOUSE 'GUARANTEED' TRUMP WOULD HELP WITH SENATE BID**

Hours after he switched races to run for the U.S. Senate, U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci said Thursday that President Donald Trump and the administration have guaranteed him help during the upcoming election.

### **ECOT ONLINE SCHOOL COULD CLOSE THIS MONTH AS IT LOSES MONEY, "SPONSOR" SUPPORT**

The controversial ECOT online charter school could close by the end of this month after financial woes led its sponsor and oversight agency to pull away.

### **NAN WHALEY TO DROP OUT OF OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE FRIDAY**

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley plans to drop out of the Ohio gubernatorial race on Friday morning and endorse Democratic primary rival Richard Cordray, according to multiple Democratic sources.

### **MIKE DeWINE MEETS WITH JOHNSON AND JOHNSON, TEVA TO DISCUSS**

#### **OPIOIDS SUIT SETTLEMENT**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has met with two pharmaceutical companies to discuss settling Ohio's lawsuit that accuses them of creating the state's opioid epidemic.

## **THE ENQUIRER**

### **OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE: DAYTON MAYOR NAN WHALEY OUT**

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley is expected to drop out of a crowded Democratic primary for Ohio governor and endorse her competitor, Richard Cordray, on Friday.

### **GOP U.S. REP. JIM RENACCI SWITCHES TO U.S. SENATE RACE. GOAL IS TO 'PROTECT ... TRUMP'S AGENDA'**

President Donald Trump played a key role in U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's decision to leave the Ohio governor's race for a U.S. Senate bid.

## **THE BLADE** One of America's Great Newspapers

### **LAKE ERIE WEST TAKES STEPS TO PULL CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP**

Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West has taken steps to pull its sponsorship for the troubled Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, putting the statewide online school closer to ending operations.

### **GOP GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE MARY TAYLOR: RENACCI DEPARTURE**

#### **FOCUSES RACE**

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor said during a campaign swing through Toledo Thursday that U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's departure from the governor's race enhances her chances of winning the Republican nomination on May 8.

### **FORCED LABOR SPOTLIGHTED AT TRAFFICKING EVENT**

Harold D'Souza and his family were brought from India in 2003 to the Cincinnati area by a family friend to work in his restaurant.

### **WHALEY TO END DEMOCRATIC RUN FOR GOVERNOR**

The field to become Ohio's new governor continues to shrink as Democratic candidate Nan Whaley plans to announce on Friday that she's pulling out of the race.



# ***The Vindicator***

## **TRESSEL ISN'T INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR SENATE**

Ohio Republicans are attempting to recruit Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel to run for the U.S. Senate, according to a report.

## **CORDRAY ANNOUNCES SUTTON AS HIS RUNNING MATE**

Richard Cordray, considered the leading Democrat for governor, strengthened his grip on the party's nomination with the announcement that ex-U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton has quit the gubernatorial race to be his lieutenant governor running mate.

**CantonRep.com**  
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

## **BILL AIMS TO EXTEND TIMELINE FOR AFFINITY CLOSING**

Stark County state Reps. Kirk Schuring, R-Jackson Township and Thomas West, D-Canton, introduced a bill today that aims to extend the timeline for the closure of Affinity Medical Center in Massillon.

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Our friends at Americans For Prosperity, Ohio asked us to help them promote an upcoming event where Heartland's Lennie Jarrett will be speaking on education.

--Nikki

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If so, this event is for you!

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You'll hear from AFP-Ohio's Ezra Escudero and the Heartland Institute's Lennie Jarratt about what the future holds for K-12 education in Ohio.

*This event is sponsored by America's Future Foundation, America's for Prosperity, Citizens for Community Values, and The Heartland Institute*

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## You've Got the Problems, We've Got the Solutions

Most state lawmakers are once again heading back to their state capitols to tackle the many important issues facing their communities, and The Heartland Institute is here to help. Heartland's second edition of *Ten State Solutions to Emerging Issues* was recently released and is now available for free online. Federal and state elected officials will receive a complimentary hard copy of the booklet in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout!

The new edition of *Ten State Solutions* explores solutions to 10 of the top public policy issues facing the states in 2018 and beyond in the areas of budget and tax, education, energy and environment, health care, and constitutional reform. The solutions identified are proven reform ideas gaining momentum among the states and with legislators.

The solutions include:

1. Make Welfare Work
2. Create a Sustainable Pension System
3. REIN in Regulations
4. Expand Private Education Choice Options
5. Prepare Students for Careers, Not Just College
6. Repeal Costly Electricity Mandates
7. Unleash Domestic Energy Production
8. Don't Wait for Obamacare Repeal, Reform Medicaid Now
9. Remove Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Care
10. Reassert Constitutional Limits on the National Government

In addition to providing solutions, the booklet also includes contact information for the leading experts on these issues, case studies, and talking points lawmakers can use when discussing important policy issues with their colleagues and constituents. The booklet offers a proven, free-market agenda for incumbent office holders, as well as a platform for candidates for public office.

Please let us know how Heartland's full-time government relations team can help you with any of these issues or topic areas. Many of the booklet's coauthors and contributors are available to answer your questions, provide additional research, testify before your committees, or even speak to your constituents!

Also, if you like the work Heartland does and would like on-demand help, travel scholarships to our events, and more, we hope you will consider joining our Legislative Forum. A membership is just \$99 for two years or \$179 for a lifetime membership. Sign up today!

The Heartland Institute is happy to provide additional free copies of *Ten State Solutions to Emerging Issues*, send an expert to your state to testify or brief your caucus, help organize an event, or provide additional research on these issues. If you have any questions or

comments, please contact John Nothdurft, director of government relations, by email at [john@heartland.org](mailto:john@heartland.org) or by phone at 312/377-4000.

## What We're Working On

### Education

**Mississippians Eager for Universal Expansion of ESA Program**  
In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson discusses a new survey from Empower Mississippi showing 65 percent of Mississippians support expanding the state's education savings account (ESA) program for students with special needs into a universal program that would be available to every student in the state. Further, 62 percent of respondents said they would be more likely to vote for a political candidate who supports the expansion of the ESA program.

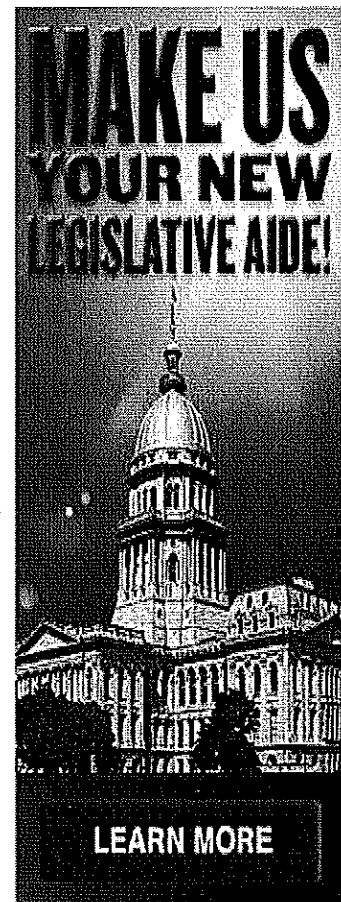
### Energy & Environment

**Daring to Doubt: Climate Change Policies Are the Threat, Not Climate Change Reality**

This is a reprint of a speech made by the Honorable Tony Abbott, the former prime minister of Australia, to the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London on October 9, 2017. In it, Abbott talks about Australia's history of dealing with the climate change issue, the harm doomsday predictions and the policies based on them have done to the continent's inhabitants, and his government's efforts to fix the problems caused by these policies. Abbott calls for a return to rational inquiry, as well as for policies that make economic growth a priority.

### Health Care

**Heartland Daily Podcast: Fixing American Health Care in 2018**  
Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D., a former congressman and current president of The Heartland Institute, joins Heartland Research Fellow Bette Grande to talk about the current political climate. Huelskamp discusses numerous topics, including Medicaid reform, Obamacare, and the need for a consumer-driven health care system. He also outlines how Heartland is fighting to restore consumer rights in health care.





### **Budget & Tax**

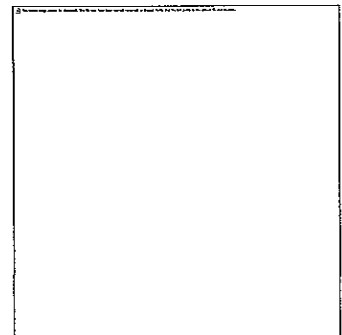
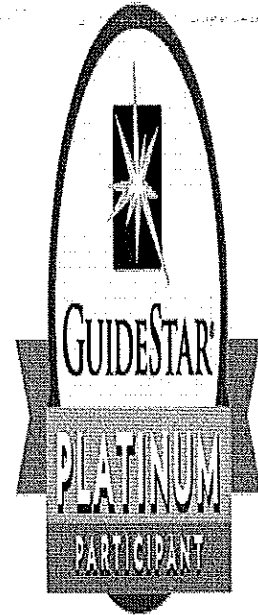
#### **Eliminating Prevailing Wage Mandates Would Lower the Cost of Ohio Public Projects**

In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans examines a proposed constitutional amendment in Ohio that would repeal the state's prevailing wage requirement, a mandate forcing taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages not based on market forces. "Government projects are often criticized for exceeding their allotted budget, and prevailing wage laws are an important contributing factor. They force contractors to establish labor costs without any consideration for the type of work or the skill of their employees. Prevailing wage laws increase the cost of construction projects, reduce competition, and encourage waste and cronyism," wrote Glans.

### **From Our Free-Market Friends**

#### **Join Us at CPAC**

The American Conservative Union will be hosting its highly anticipated annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) from February 21–24 in Washington, DC. Like past CPACs, this year's conference is expected to have an all-star lineup of big-name political activists and politicians. The Heartland Institute will have two separate breakout sessions on the topics of health care and energy and environment. Heartland is well-known for its vigilance in debunking global warming myths and exposing the radicalism of the eco-Left. It has also begun to also take a lead role in the health care debate, which has heated up in recent months because of the Trump administration's interest in bringing about much-needed free-market reforms.





In the January issue of *School Reform News*, Ashley Bateman reports on a Rhode Island injunction ordering the local teachers union to quit its "sickout" tactic, in which teachers take excessive sick leave days as a form of protest. Students in the Warwick School district were left without consistent education for the first few months of the current school year when teachers there staged a sickout.

Environment & Climate  
News

Budget & Tax News

Health Care News



**The Heartland Institute**

The Heartland Institute, founded in 1984, is a national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

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**PRESS STATEMENT**

**Honor Martin Luther King by continuing the fight**



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*Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King, Jr. and singer Harry Belafonte in 1965. Photo: Center for Jewish History*

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**Contact:** Amy Hanauer  
**216.361.9801**

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Policy Matters Ohio Executive Director Amy Hanauer releases the following statement:

"Nearly 50 years ago, Martin Luther King was murdered in Memphis, Tenn. by a racist white man. King travelled there to support the city's black sanitation workers in their strike protesting dangerous work conditions and unfair wages. It was part of King's Poor People's Campaign, which expanded the struggle for racial justice from desegregation and voting rights to economic security.

"There is nothing new about poverty," he wrote in his final book, "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?" "What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it...Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any time, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources, the deficit is in human will."

King knew the American dream would remain out of reach for black people until they could access decent housing, fair wages, safe working conditions, good schools and quality health care. He knew in many ways, the dream eluded white Americans living in poverty as well.

At Policy Matters Ohio, we try to honor King's legacy by insisting on policies that recognize the dignity of all people. This year, we face several big fights. Having just drastically cut taxes to benefit the wealthiest few, President Trump and Republicans in Congress now aim to slash funding for programs that broaden opportunity like Medicaid, food aid, college assistance, public education and more. Children of undocumented immigrants who know no other home, could face deportation after Trump scrapped a program that allowed them to come out of the shadows and contribute to society without fear.

In Ohio, GOP lawmakers are pushing so-called "right to work" laws that would weaken labor unions — the single most effective tool in protecting workers' rights, ensuring decent wages and shrinking workplace barriers for people of color and women. With the Trump administration's blessing, state policymakers are pursuing work requirements, premiums and co-pays that would make it harder for low-income Ohioans to access health care through Medicaid.

These are challenging times, but something powerful has broken free across Ohio and the United States. We see it in the thousands who marched in D.C. and locally last year; the endless calls to members of Congress in defense of the Affordable Care Act and the outcry of support for our immigrant neighbors. The human will for change is building. Join us as we strive to answer King's call and 'bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice.'"

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## Legislative Update

January 15, 2018

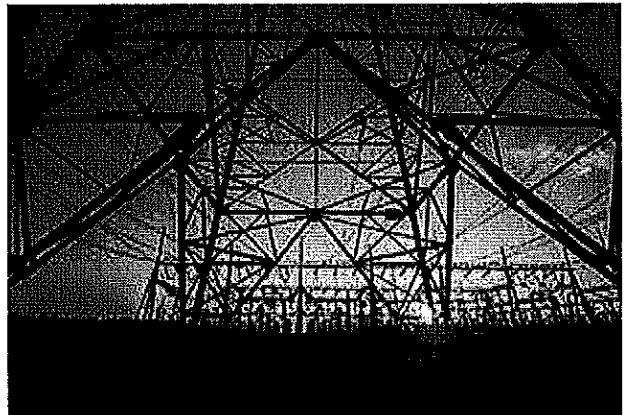
### ***Read about the issues that impact your business.***

#### **We're All For .....**

##### **Energy Efficiency Mandate Reform**

On January 10, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce urged the Senate during testimony to heed Senate President Larry Obhof's earlier commitment to vote in January on legislation addressing Ohio's energy efficiency mandates. Read more by [clicking here](#).

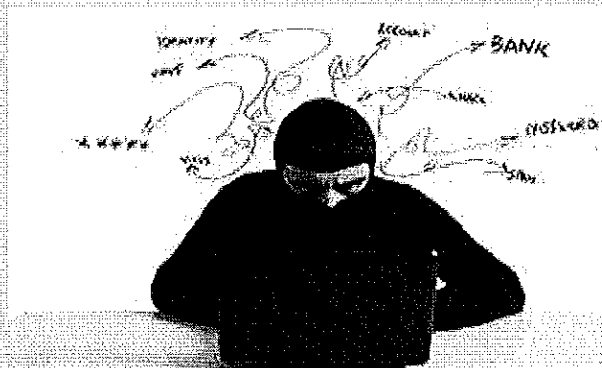
[Click here](#) to read about the bills we are following.



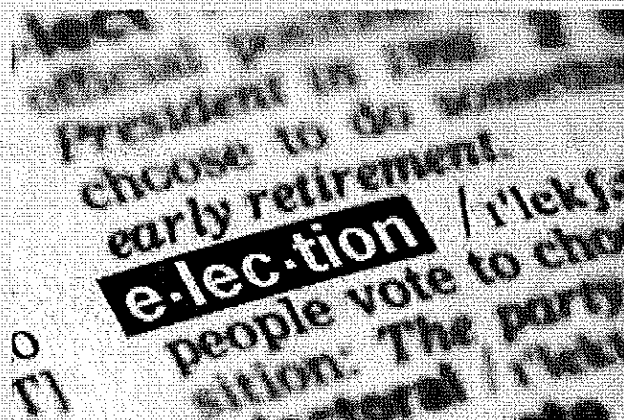
#### **We're All for Providing Information**

Be sure to read our latest blog posts on [allforohio.com](http://allforohio.com) for additional information that is of interest to Ohio Chamber members. Here are our blog posts from the past week:





On January 10, the Ohio Chamber testified in support of Senate Bill 220 a bill that would grant businesses who institute cybersecurity programs with legal protections if a data breach were to occur. [Read more.](#)



2018 is a big election year for our state with all of the statewide offices and key Ohio Supreme Court seats on the ballot. For the 2018 Ohio election key dates, [click here.](#)

## We're All for Connections

Our issue-specific business advocates can help you navigate legislative and regulatory issues that impact your business. Our membership specialists can guide you through the services we offer. Our communications team can make sure you are getting the information you need. Just let us know how we can help. Here's how you can reach us:



## Contact Ohio Chamber Lobbyists

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